

Southern Enclave

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The Private Life of a Jedi

OR

A Treatise on The Jedi Order

Jeanine Hennig

PART ONE

The Jedi. War order, military order, religious/philosophical order, or community of weirdos? It's never really specified, save in comments by biased parties. Tarkin calls them a religion, Yoda's comments are that they lean towards the philosophical, and Ben says that they were the guardians of freedom and justice in the Old Republic.

But what were they? How did they use the Force? (What is the Force?) What made them able to use the Force? What made a Jedi as, supposedly, opposed to a Dark Lord, and what led to their fall? I'm sure everyone has their own opinions on such things, but I'd like to put forth mine, and, hopefully, throw open another area for debate and speculation.

I'll start with the order itself, which through most of fandom has become known as an Enclave. (Take a bow for this one, Maggie; no other word fits so well!) There are various branches of Jedi communities, spread throughout the galaxy--the best system for upholding order in that same galaxy. Each Enclave would be independent within itself; maybe twice or thrice in a season or similar timespan would there be a meeting or all the Enclaves at a neutral point--sort of a senatorial-type group. There they could discuss problems, wrangle with hot issues and decide whether or not to set up new Enclaves where needed, send out a section of their people to deal with a problem in a certain system, etc. But, as with the starship Enterprise, a semi-anarchy would have to hold true for this spread-out fellowship, since each Enclave would have its own individual problems and would not be able to wait for orders from "on-high". They would have to make their own decisions in almost every instance, no matter how good mail service is in that galaxy. The one problem with this is, if there's a lack of communication and sharing of those ideas and decisions, a good system becomes chaos. More on that later.

So we have a loosely-linked group of peoples, who work with governments, not for them. (Working for a government can create bias, the one thing that dooms any who have to judge fairly.) They would have loosely-structured

society, as must be within a coming-together of many creeds and beings, and their most stringent ethics would probably contain themselves with the maxim "an ye harm none, do as ye will". (Note that the main thrust of that statement is not "do as ye will" but "an ye harm none"!.) The Jedi would need to be the keepers of their own consciences--which works well in a culture that doesn't try to force its will on others--indeed, they would almost certainly have to be so in order to get their job done properly. (By and large, in my opinion, the Dragonriders of Pern, from the Anne McCaffrey novels, would have made a good Enclave, and remind me very much of what the Jedi structure must have been like.)



This leads to orders within the Order. I would presume that not all Jedi are warriors. (I don't use the term Knight here because I think it denotes a certain level of achievement...Apprentice first, then Knighthood and all its possible levels, to Master, Grandmaster, and so on.) There would have to be those who excelled as judges, healers, statespersons, recordkeepers, and those who excelled in several at once; not everyone would have the same leanings toward a certain Force-talent. (I am in accord with the belief here that Jedi are a "race"--using the term genetically--assuming that, yes, everyone does have potential for the Force or has it, but only certain ones have the ability to consciously manipulate it.) Therein lies a whole list of things that Jedi can use the Force for, even if it's "only" to entertain. I'm sure that there are Jedi minstrels and dancers--there needs to be something besides war-making!

Now, as to the training of those orders within the Order--I would assume that, following the Enclave theory, each of these communities is fairly self-sufficient. (An interesting aside: I have noted that a lot of writers, including myself, include Alderaan as a past place for a prosperous Jedi Enclave. It makes sense--on such a peaceful, "neutral" planet, it would be the perfect place for such--and this assumption tears holes in the theory that Jedi are only warriors. Presumably, they would not be welcome in such a place if they were...) So, it follows that each would have its own teaching institutions, with suitable Masters for each skill. A Jedi might be taken under wing by a Master to whom s/he stays Apprenticed until s/he learns what s/he can from that one, then move on. One never stops learning, even after they become a Master, and surely there are many good Jedi that never become Masters, but are nonetheless excellent in their craft. Not only would skill level matter in such a graduation, but ability to lead, to teach and raise faith in what they were teaching.

It sounds like a wonderful society to me, but obviously not all idyllic, for it was defeated. Perhaps Masters became chosen indiscriminately, and perhaps leaders started believing their own PR--that the Jedi are special, like to gods because of their special powers and thus omnipotent as most gods in legends are. (Surely primitive--even not-so-primitive--cultures would think so!) According to the books, the corruption came from within, and I don't think that certain phrase referred to just one traitor. Perhaps the separate Enclaves lost touch with one another, developed such varying ways that they could no longer identify with the others and even ceased trying to identify, through bigotry and ignorance. They assumed that they were "The Only Right and True Way", not wanting to see the truth. And, if some saw the corruption happening, they would be the "different" ones, the "rebels" who did not ascribe to the ways like they should, even if those ways be thousands of years old and obsolete. Nothing could touch the Jedi!--no, they were too good, too established! So cancer set in, leaving it very easy for destruction. The major breakdown had already started 'way before Vader was even

known, or the Emperor.

We have been given the terms "Jedi" and "Dark Lord" as somewhat of an antithesis to each other. Several authors--again, including myself--have postulated that the "Dark Lord" could have been a title of a Jedi sect. There has truly been nothing to prove us wrong, save the first book, which validity has been debated for years now. Does the term encompass all the Force? I would think so. Yoda said that a Jedi's strength "flows through the Force"--and the Light and the Dark are both of the Force. Are there Jedi of the Light and Jedi of the Dark? (And how about the Grey--but that's opening a can of worms best saved til later...) And are each necessarily evil in themselves? Without one, there cannot be the other, and the two must somehow meld in between...

Words and descriptions, unfortunately, don't cover this well enough. I would think that there could be Jedi of the Dark without them being evil or ruled by that same Darkness, just as the Light can be used without misuse. What is the important difference is intent. Darksider/Lightsider are my favorite terms to use here, for they show no fuzzy in-between, they show the intent to follow a certain path. The key phrase here is "Power for power, or power for purpose." The power itself is not wrong. The use of it can be...and this misuse is evident in both Darth Vader and the Emperor. They totally go against the "An ye harm none" theory; harm is evident in what they do, even harm to themselves. And they abuse the power, even as they use it for purpose, for the purpose is power. The choice--the power of love, or the love of power--is inherent in everything, for humans, even the SWars humans, are passionate people in everything and are forced in each episode to make that choice. Two sides of the coin--Vader/the Emperor as Darksiders, Luke/Leia as Lightsiders, and the various fan universes offer their own solutions and alternatives to this. Leia has more of the drive for power than Luke does, as her position proves, but still it is the power for purpose, the "clean" power.

The Force itself needs to come in also, since it is integral with the Jedi and everything s/he does. Described as an all-encompassing energy field, it is no deity. It is the life around one and in one, the field generated by all that has life. The Jedi control, and, are sometimes controlled by the Force. (Another aside--perhaps the Lightsiders control and work with the Force, and the Darksiders work against and are in the end controlled by it.) To work with it: this is the state a Jedi craves, to "go with the flow" and trust one's feelings and instincts. From such comes the truest power, the strongest link with the Force. It has darker aspects--which I tend to describe as the emotions, the passions, the "child"--and the lighter ones--the logic, the precision, the control, the purity--and even the ones in between, in which the two work together. Maybe the "true" Jedi is the one, even if considered of the "Light" or "Dark" by his or her persona, is the one that works within the grey, meshing and melding the two "sides" into a smooth, well-oiled practice. One who does not shun one or the other by bias,

but knows that each are within him/her and one cannot rule over the other without disruption. With this in mind, the "Lightsider" is no better than the "Darksider" if s/he cannot see through an obsession with one side of the Force. The destruction of the Jedi from within supports this.

Many other theories on the Jedi's life style could and need to be discussed. Over

the next several issues, I'll attempt to bring these theories out into some coherent form, along with posing my own ascriptions and the varied ways of seeing the Jedi that fandom has brought to light. And I more than welcome comments and opinions--it helps me to form my own thoughts more coherently.

Walk the skies!

Dune

How Similar Are They?

SW

Barbara Tennison

The recent movie of DUNE, being a highly touted SF film with copious special effects, will inevitably invite comparisons with the SW trilogy, the more so since DUNE, the 1965 novel by Frank Herbert, has often been cited unofficially as one of the literary sources whose influence is visible in A NEW HOPE.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is perhaps not the forum in which to present a detailed comparison of Frank Herbert's series of DUNE books and the di Laurentis film, but two points about the moviemakers' intentions are notable here: First and most obviously, they wished to duplicate the novel as well as possible--much of the book has been reproduced scene for scene and speech for speech, and deviations from the original text can generally be seen as intended to display the story more effectively in cinematic terms. Second, the movie was not intended to copy SW in any way, shape or form. Some of the publicity has made this point by emphasizing the completely from-scratch development of such artifacts as spaceships, weapons, architecture and clothing styles; and the effect is indeed nothing like SW's technological "look." More importantly, the film's storyline closely follows the book's, which predates SW by over a decade.

Since the (first) SW trilogy is complete, I'd like to discuss it in relation to the novel DUNE, which is itself organized into three "books", each nearly the length of an ordinary novel.

The desert-planet setting of ANH is probably what sparked the early comparisons between the two works, for Tatooine seems to owe much to DUNE's Arrakis. Most obvious is the concept itself: a desert world, hot and largely barren, on which settlers nevertheless manage to raise food and survive. (I am assuming here that Owen Lars' farm and its harvest involve food-stuffs; if not, that other farmers' do, for importing food would seem an economic impossibility if farming is even marginally successful.) Lars farms with the aid of "vaporators" which recall the Arrakeen use of "dew collectors" and "windtraps" to collect moisture. The Tusken Raiders, "sandpeople" and the Jawas represent tribes of wild desert hunters who are seen as savages by the more settled homesteaders, paralleling Arrakis' Fremen. And there is a mention of "spice mines" in SW (the infinitely valuable spice of Dune is "mined", in

spite of the fact that it is an organic substance), and the harsh conditions there are a byword, as are those on Arrakis.

In addition, there is a hard-to-define similarity in the presentation of the two environments, Tatooine and Arrakis. This may be indicated, for instance, by the term "dune sea", which is used easily and descriptively in ANH, recalling the repeated comparisons of Arrakis' sands to an ocean from which rise beaches and cliffs of rock. There is even what has been (perhaps jokingly) referred to as a "sandworm skeleton" in one of the establishing shots of Tatooine's sands, though this vertebrate-appearing relic is not convincing as any relative of the segmented, earthworm-structured Arrakeen monster.

Yet with all these similarities, there are some striking differences between the SW setting and DUNE's. To begin with, Tatooine doesn't produce spice or, apparently, anything particularly valuable, and if Kessel's spice mines have any function other than punishment for the inmates, it is never alluded to. The most common mode of transport is low-flying "landspeeders", propelled perhaps by ground effects, perhaps by a touch of the antigravity which is implicit in much of SW's ship-sized transport machinery. In contrast, DUNE shows anti-grav "suspensors" used to support a single person's mass, either directly or in furniture such as a chair, but multi-person vehicles, where any are shown, are winged "ornithopters", and interstellar travel is by dimensional manipulation rather than physical movement.

Tatooine's weather is shown as uniformly sunny and cloudless--there's no hint of the windstorms which provide such dramatic climaxes to DUNE's plotting. (I would not be surprised if Tatooine was known to have such storms, but they are never used in the SW story.) The concern for water, though evident, is not seen as crucial to every detail of life on Tatooine, as it is on Dune, for there are no (apparent) waterseals on the doors and no one uses the moisture-conserving stillsuits; clothing seems to be of loose, absorbent cloth. The Lars homestead, though built subterraneously against heat, is open to the air, as is the 'speeder. The concern seems to be protection against heat and perhaps against direct sunlight, rather than against loss of moisture as a major danger.

Finally, the universe of DUNE is populated solely by humans, while SW contains a peripheral but well-drawn society of wildly varying intelligent races, as well as droids which give every appearance of self-aware, thinking machine beings. This last is specifically prohibited in DUNE, a revolt against mechanical thinkers being given as the historical cause of development, or a major effect on, at least three specialized human societies: the Spacing Guild, the Bene Gesserit, and the mentats, all of which play important roles in the plot of DUNE and the development of the central character.¹

Both works feature an interstellar empire in approximately the same role, that of a central, entrenched power against which the hero(es) must contend, and both show an emperor powerful by virtue of his military might²; but even aside from these concepts, which are hardly unique to the two works under discussion, there are political similarities between the two stories. DUNE is considerably more complex, with several power-holders whose interlocked influences all affect the course of the plot. The principal storylines, however, are remarkably similar in rough sketch: A young man who displays a remarkable and little-anticipated psychic (or religious) talent finds himself stripped of his home and security. He determines that he must revenge his father's death, which is directly due to the principal villain, said villain having expediently allied himself with the emperor. The now-homeless young man finds that he has little alternative but to join a group which is opposing the empire; he is sponsored there by a longtime inhabitant of the desert who possesses long-ignored but powerful offworld connections. The rebel group is much strengthened by the hero's unique talents. Both he and the principal female character (who shares some measure of his psychic/religious talents) are descended by blood from the principal villain, though they do not know it during at least the first section of the narrative, and have no desire to follow up the relationship when it is revealed.³ The young hero spends about four years among the rebels as they become more and

more successful, finally challenging the emperor directly in a climactic battle. The rebels win the military battle by use of an extraordinary but logical development of their strengths⁴, while in related events, the hero himself wins a one-to-one duel with the emperor's champion; the villain is killed; and the rebellious force unleashed by the hero is seen to be in position to co-opt the former empire's power and shape it into a new regime.

Neither work is limited to the political plot, for they are large enough to include a good number of major and minor characters, background information (much of which is implied by the visual setting in SW), supporting incidents, subplots, and an occasional side issue. Both spend significant time developing the villains, not to humanize them--in fact the opposite--but to show the hero(es) in sharper contrast. Both works specifically refrain from giving the villains any shred of sympathetic characterization, though a sick glamour undeniably clings to them.⁵

The dissimilarities between DUNE and SW lie in their respective approaches to the interaction of politics and religion. DUNE states several times that when the two forces are coupled, the resulting power is dangerously unstoppable: this is the fear that haunts its central character, Paul Muad'dib Atreides. His gifts of presence warn him that the galaxy's population is ready to plunge into chaos, with or without him, and he deliberately makes himself a religious-political leader, a messiah, to exert the only possible control over such a movement.

SW, though it distinguishes between the Jedi (which I am taking in its religious aspects for purposes of this discussion) and the Alliance, shows the two elements as belonging together to make the best possible permanent leadership of the galaxy, harking back to the model of the Old Republic. Luke Skywalker's talents develop only slowly; he learns his destiny more by living it out than by visions, and when he does wind up in the literal center of the Alliance's battle over Endor, it is as much in pursuit of a personal quest as to benefit the rebels. Luke seems to consider his Jedi studies a path to enlightenment about the Force itself, or a source of individual strength for himself, rather than an essential part of the Alliance's efforts. His actions are directed toward individuals: he wants to rescue his

1. This point is not made evident in the movie DUNE, and my opinion is that the political subtleties of the plot were least well served by the transfer from print to screen, though I admit this backgrounding is secondary to the effects of the Guild and Bene Gesserit in the story's present time; some such decisions are necessary in any adaptation from one medium to another.

2. Palpatine by ROTJ is shown as a powerful Force-adept as well, a quality which nevertheless does not negate the frequent use of Star Destroyers, AT-AT walkers, stormtroopers, etc., to achieve his ends.

3. Luke is vehement about his antipathy toward joining Darth Vader, especially as a son/father team. He seeks Anakin Skywalker, the good man he hopes to find within Vader, rather than the Darkside Vader whom he rejects as father.

4. Both the first and second Death Star destructions might be cited here, since the first, which took more obvious advantage of an imperial blind spot, provided something of a model for the second, and since the first was in some ways a structural expedient to finish ANH appropriately without waiting six years for two more then-hypothetical movies to be completed.

5. The movie of DUNE capitalizes noticeably on this; its methods are extreme and may not please all viewers, but the point that the Harkonnens' attractions (if any) lie in their negative morality as symbolized by their negative personal appeal, is perhaps well-taken.

friends from danger; he confronts Vader as a fallen Jedi, rather than as a threat to the Alliance.

DUNE shows several political elements which have balanced each other in the past, about to lose their independence; by the end of the book their powers have been combined in Paul. SW, in contrast, shows a single emperor with a corrupting amount of political power and Force-ability, who is finally destroyed by a group in which the political and religious authority is divided between several different individuals, all strong enough to hold their own in a power struggle. The process in SW is of the different functions of a potential government --economic, military, political, religious, etc.--re-growing separately, sometimes in coordination but not subjugated to one leader's purpose.

In the respective central characters' differing developments and attitudes, we may see the common factor in DUNE's and SW's underlying themes: religion and politics work together safely only when there is some check on their combined power. In DUNE that need for restraint is in the forefront of Paul's awareness from the first moment he perceives himself as such a leader. Paul's character is built around his fear of the power he can exercise; it shapes his conscious goals during his entire adult life. (This is taken further in the first sequel, DUNE MESSIAH.) Paul himself

must embody the only constraint on the power he seizes.

Luke is only one of three central SW characters, so that he does not have to be a political leader or remind himself that visions and "simple tricks" don't run the galaxy by themselves. This, and the fact that he is at first ignorant of his potential and then focuses on the personal consequences of it for himself and his family, mean that Luke is less aware of any outside need to hold his talents apart from their possible political use, but his personality and his actions do stand between the Alliance and its use of Jedi power. By ROTJ, his abilities may be valued within the Alliance, but they are not pre-eminent. In the final action of SW, Luke must face the Darkside Jedi and defeat him with the Light Side of the Force, but he is not faced with a conviction that he must replace Palpatine directly. As one part of a team that defeats Palpatine, Luke can afford personal loyalties and motivations, can afford to concentrate on his development as a Jedi without weighing the political cost at every turn, if he is confident of the balance of power around him.

Thus DUNE and SW do not tell the same story, though they both show the dangers of absolute power: in one case by the ruler's resistance to it in himself; in another by the resistance it provokes among those who are subjected to it.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

STAR WARS - HAN SOLO

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C A N T I N A V N G L N
O H D D J B O Y F R O U
R S E N A I M O N E Y R
E I B W B L A S T E R L
L F T Y B K Z O N D E E
L D V W A A L O H O L S
I U F N Q I C E A E G S
A Z K O P L K C J Z G E
N Q C E A A V D A E U K
E Z B F R I E N D S M E
S A S P R I N C E S S R

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By Lynda Vandiver

WORDS

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BLASTER      MONEY
CANTINA      PILOT
CHEWBACCA    PRINCESS
CORELLIAN    SMUGGLER
DEBT
FALCON
FRIENDS
GREEDO
JABBA
KESSEL RUN
LUKE

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Solution on page 46

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Reviewing the Fleet

Sandra Necchi

FAR REALMS #6--Galactic Winds Press, c/o Jeanine Hennig, P. O. Box 166362, Irving, Texas 75016; 278 pp, \$19 fc.

This is quite a gorgeous zine to look at. The paper is thick so there's little see-through effect, the print is excellent and the art reproduction stunning. There's no back cover art but that's more than compensated for by Jenni's exquisite color front cover of Luke and a "shadow" Vader, entitled "Child of Light, Child of Darkness." I believe the medium is pastel, with swirling, suggestive, smooth strokes that will stay in your memory. This is easily one of the best covers of the year, simple and subtle, if not the best.

The bulk of the zine is in four long stories. The best and longest of these is unquestionably Jeanine Hennig's "Seeds of Destruction: Jihad", part two of a chapter in her "Catalyst!" series. Episodic and very gothic, the story centers on Luke's descent into the Dark, having been tricked by his father and the Emperor, a relative of Kenobi's. This is the first story I've read in the series and I think I've finally found a SW series that I can sink my teeth into. It's quite startling how I could so easily follow the story, and become engrossed in all the proceedings. Hennig accomplishes quite a bit here: a clear, memorable storyline, powerful and distinctive secondary characters (not a common achievement in SW fanfic), a character that could easily have become a typical irritating Mary Sue but doesn't, and a writing style that immediately hooks you in and keeps you suffering for more. The lady is a sadist.

Hennig's Leia, while not hopeless, still suffers from triviality. Leia's only role in the story seems to be to reach, to comfort, to be Han's female. She is often a trembling little girl with none of the natural strength and independence from the films. She is referred to as "cold" (again), "shrewish", and a "figurehead from the beginning" in the Alliance. Han, as usual, has greater importance, but Hennig isn't gushy about him. He offers practicality, perception, honesty, love. And then of course, there is Luke. Hennig is a Luke fan but she doesn't portray him with gush or oversentimentality. He is not a perfect hero. He is a deeply complex, quite beautiful heroic/anti-heroic construct, and an utter joy for this reviewer to read. The scenes of battle and of love are filled with texture and emotion, although Hennig would do well to improve her attempts to provide a fuller sense of setting. Throughout all this are Hennig's own characters. The most successful is Luke's mother, Rebekah, whose personality resemblance to her son provides for some fascinating and funny moments. When she first sees the Falcon, she exclaims, "What a piece of junk!" Rebekah

is the link for all the mystical elements taking place, and for all the young Jedi who threaten the Emperor. She is a Master Jedi, and despite all the pain she has apparently suffered in the past and is suffering now, she exudes a spirit of hope that keeps the action exciting. The scenes between her, Vader and Luke are powerful and tantalizing, much too short and somehow incomplete. This is no ordinary nuclear family, folks. Hennig also incorporates Wedge into a prominent role in the action of a Jedi and a rival to Luke in his love for the girl Jessami. These secondary characters are not fully developed, but they have such strong, distinctive personalities already that they engender a devotion of their own among many readers, particularly Rebekah and Wedge. The scene where I had the hardest time in believability is between Luke and Jessami's twin, a Dark Sider, when their child is conceived. It reads too much like a bad gothic sex scene with Luke saying things like, "You scheming little bitch." Jenni's illos to this story are the best in the zine--dramatic, emotional, though a few are placed in such a way that the characters don't really seem to be interacting with each other, but are being put on display for the viewer. The illos pick up perfectly the atmosphere of the story: brooding, panoramic, dark.

The three other stories come before this one and are all disappointing. Christine Jeffords' "Fire in the Steel--TRUST" is the second part in a trilogy and revolves around her recurring character, the Azaeli pirate Mari Sevenstars and her attempts to rescue Han from yet another underworld character. The most interesting thing here is Mari's unusual, unspoken devotion to Han. That Sevenstars is a memorable character is without doubt. Unfortunately, I can't seem to take her seriously. She's more of a strutting martinet with a personal bodyguard who are fiercely loyal to her, yet it's really not clear why they should be. She is perhaps too much of a caricature than a real person for me to become interested in. We are constantly reminded of her fierceness and warrior skills, yet we're never shown this. The action of the story is constantly interrupted by unimportant details that break the flow of the story. And the piece just doesn't move. It seems that the only thing Mari thinks about is revenge or killing. Then, too, occasionally Jeffords' writing becomes a bit pretentious as in her use of the word "thither." There are long moments of reflection that also should be consigned to quieter moments, not in the middle of a coming rescue or battle. The plot is also very thin. Jeffords' writing is quite fine generally. She merely needs to make more of her character than an immature child playing with guns, acting tough, intimidating people. Dani Lane's illos to this, however,

are full and well-chosen. Her perspective and composition are excellent, and she provides vivid renditions of various scenes.

Linda Knights' "The Blood Remembers" is even slower moving. Luke is drawn to a strange, mystical planet to discover his origins. The inhabitants are apparently strongly tuned in to the Force. The story revolves around Luke's journey to a village that may be his parental home. Accompanying him are four men, the most interesting of whom is a non-talkative, almost fairy-like denizen of the forest who silently protects Luke on the journey. There is a lot of waiting around in the woods, dull, stiff, philosophical dialogue. The philosophizing often becomes extremely pretentious and obscure. Knights' interpretation of the Force is also a bit skewed. Upon entering an area where the Dark Side had consumed the inhabitants (who are now all dead), Luke has a vision of the events that led to the village's destruction. Apparently, the village's "shaman" was filled with a "seed of doubt" (there's a lot of talk about this "seed of doubt" in this story) who passed it on to his son, who passed it on to his, and eventually, due to one man's wish to question, the entire village becomes consumed. Finally, after pages and pages of philosophy, we reach the village of Luke's origins and the scene is decidedly anticlimactic. This is a plodding, overdone story, and a chore to read. MRO Ludwig's illos are a bit flat and sterile. The people are indistinct and there's no illo of the village of Northern Shores, Luke's destination, which is described in some detail.

Diana Piercy's "All That Matters" tells the recurring story of yet another young, beautiful Jedi girl (this one's called Brianne) who loves and is loved by Luke. The point of view switches, the dialogue is stiff, there is some misuse of words ("Ben spoke to her intrinsically") and the story just doesn't inspire interest. Brianne is an adolescent, childish creature, and I can't for the life of me understand why Luke would love her. (Someone should also tell the author that the word isn't "uncomfortableness" but "discomfort.") Brianne's love for Luke is melodramatic, over-sentimental and dependent. The love scenes are rather good, however, written with some triteness but affecting and subtle. Also, Leia is done surprisingly well here. Most stories with one of these female characters do little justice to Leia. But here, the Princess is portrayed with accurate warmth and kindness. Dani Lane's illos to this are genuine depictions of emotions. The perspectives are wonderful, sometimes from overhead. One illo of Luke and Leia standing on a ramp has Leia's stance and expression done exactly as the story describes. Lane's free, easy, creative style truly helps to see things that the story is sometimes unclear about.

Vignettes and poems are sparse in the zine. "Choice" by Cheree Cargill has Leia commiserating about what to do with Han's child since, so Cargill assumes, there's no place for children in a revolution. Laurie Shanahan's "Conscience" has Han and Luke commiserating over their medals just after ANH, with Han (again) disparaging Leia for her supposed insensitivi-

ty. It's strange to see Han talking about guilt over killing since in that same film, he blasts Greedo with such total indifference (actually making a joke about it as he leaves) that I can't believe he would feel guilty about his role in the Death Star battle. No one looks upset at the end of ANH.

Once again, I have to object to a zine's exorbitant price. It isn't even 300 pages and it's \$19.00. It's a truly beautiful zine with a few excellent offerings and wonderful art. It's up to the potential buyer on this one.

DOCKING BAY #5 -- edited by Cynde Hartman, 1409 W. Main St., Peoria, IL 61606; 138 pp.

DB#5 is a fun, cozy, relaxing zine offering some memorable writing and art, as well as enough varied material to warm the heart of any Luke, Han or Indiana Jones fan. "When Dreams Come Home" by Rhiemmenth is apparently part of an already established series, set after ROTJ, wherein Luke returns to Tatooine and meets up with his old boyhood friends (who are well-named: Deak, Windy, Fixer). Basically an interlude and not complete in itself, the story is memorable for its sensitive handling of human reactions, especially those of Luke's friends as they learn of their old companion's exciting adventures. Luke himself never fully comes alive, but the appearance of Wedge makes the character act more believably, as Luke's mysterious silence draws itself out.

Kathy Agel's "Her Brother's Keeper", another entry into her "Starbird" series, concerns Han's sister, Cara, and her efforts to help retrieve Han. Agel goes to great lengths to portray Cara as a female version of Han, but she largely comes across as a caricature of her brother, though occasionally a real human being does peep through. Events happen too quickly, and description and exposition are very sparse. There are seeds of a fuller story here, and Cara certainly has potential to grow in her own right. As it is, however, commitment from the reader is never fully elicited. But I think Agel should certainly keep at it.

Marcia Brin's vignette, "In Thy Service, My Lord" presents Boba Fett as a loyal servant of Vader's, operating at Jabba's palace under Vader's orders to rescue Han. Thoughtfully written, as are most of Brin's pieces, it is a fascinating alternate view of the events on Tatooine in ROTJ (and certainly more logical and creative), if a bit too forced in exposition.

In "Gratia Artis," Eva Albertsson offers the zine's funniest and most imaginative piece. Told from the point of view of an intelligent snake called Zindra (yes, you read right), it concerns Indiana Jones' slipping into a "Gate" in the middle of his escape from the temple in RLA, whereupon he lands in another dimension. There he finds intelligent snakes, hombeards and humans all living together in (some) harmony. Zindra dislikes humans but she gradually learns to like Indy, just as he reluctantly learns to appreciate her. It was a joy to read simply because of the attempt to do something NEW with Indy.

"The Phoenix" by B. J. Kreuz has an elder Luke, Jedi teacher, directing political nego-

tiations. Mainly an interlude in the middle of a larger story, it fails to interest or involve the reader. Perhaps with more exposure, the story's ideas might become more interesting to the reader. But in itself, this piece stands more as an expository bridge without much impact.

Carol-Lynn Sappe's "A Bedlamite's Dream", the zine's longest story, is an IJ adventure set in Norway, involving Nazi spies and heavy water experiments, a mysterious monster reminiscent of Doyle's Baskerville hound (that remains unexplained) and--incidentally--a search for the fate of the lost tribe of Israel. The biggest problem here is that, because of all the many unfulfilled sub-plots, the story never fully coheres but I think any IJ fan will enjoy the love games between Indy and Marion and the straight action/adventure focus. I do wish Marion wasn't always shouting and complaining but her handling of the two shy German scientists was quite hilarious and believable. Action, and not characters, have the greatest impact here.

Of the filler pieces, the more memorable include "A Sampling of Tri-Dee Viewing in the Restored Republic" by Mark Walton which offers such viewing delights as "I Love Leia" and "Calrissian's Way"; "Leia 10, Ewoks 0" by Suzy

Sansom which...ah...compares Leia's attraction against that of the Ewoks to the young male audience in ROTJ; B. J. Kreuz's poem, "1970 Revisited", which makes an interesting and sensitive link between the idealism of the 60's and the dreams expressed in SW. There is also Jenni's two powerful, poetic songs told from Luke's point of view, "Times of Rebellion" and "The Sands of Home" (to two of Dan Fogelberg's tunes); and "The Cross-Universe Get Story to End Them All" by Jacqueline Taero, with all of HF's roles meeting and fighting each other.

Nancy Stasulis' full illos for Agel's story are a joy to look at and her rendering of Han's sister makes the character stand out more than she does in the story. Martynn's illos for Albertsson's piece match the author's humor, especially the one which has Indy rather upset at waking up to find a large snake in his bed. J. R. Dunster's illos to Sappe's story are particularly bold and dramatic, and it matters little if her faces don't quite resemble the characters themselves. Carol Salemi's front cover of Luke and Leia is beautiful and captures a very emotional moment between the two.

Overall, a fair, enjoyable, unassuming buy. A few typos only, and occasionally light printing are the only graphic complaints.

ART CREDITS:

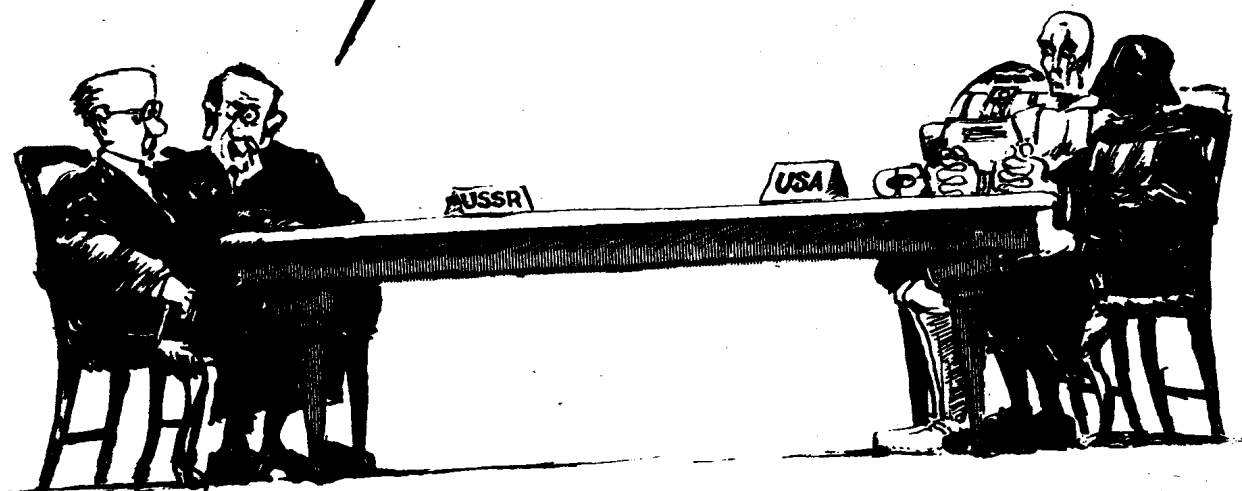
Danaline Bryant ... 1, 25, 43
Cheree Cargill all other art

Come on folks! We need filler art -- BAD!!

For all those who requested Judi Grove's address, it is:

Judi Grove
2232 Dixie Dr.
York, PA 17402

**I THINK IT'S TIME
WE BRING UP THE "STAR WARS" ISSUE.**



notices

Profile

Dear Fen:

I have recently been made aware that some items mailed have not been received. If you were due art from me and it is late, please contact me ASAP! If you have anything due from me in future, please contact me ASAP for possible rescheduling, due to recent unexpected and uncontrollable circumstances. I regret any inconveniences this may cause and tender prior apologies. Thank you.

Yours in the Force,
Nancy A. Stasulis

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Susan Wright Henderson, 40, single, never married. BA Goucher College, MA & PhD Univ. of Maine at Orono. Am descended from a long line of cantankerous New Englanders, whom I blame for the bone-cussedness that helped make me the Imperial I am today. I work as a claims representative at Social Security. I'm owned be three cats--probably four by the time this is printed. Non-fannish interests are history (which all my degrees are in) and needlework of all sorts. Fannish interests: I'm basically a Star Wars fan of the Imperial persuasion, but also enjoy written SF and Star Trek. I discovered fandom a year after seeing and falling in love with TESB, when my cousin lent me the first fanzines I'd ever seen. I became an Imperial for two reasons (other than bone-cussedness), one serious and one frivolous. The former is that I have never seen the Rebels prove their case. The latter was Darth Vader's long legs and Adm. Piett's accent.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many thanks to Laura Virgil for helping me type this issue. Also, Marcia Brin, Jean Stevenson and Melody Corbett would like everyone to know that they goofed up and missed the deadline completely this issue but promise they'll all be back in full form next issue!

Spielberg digs archaeology

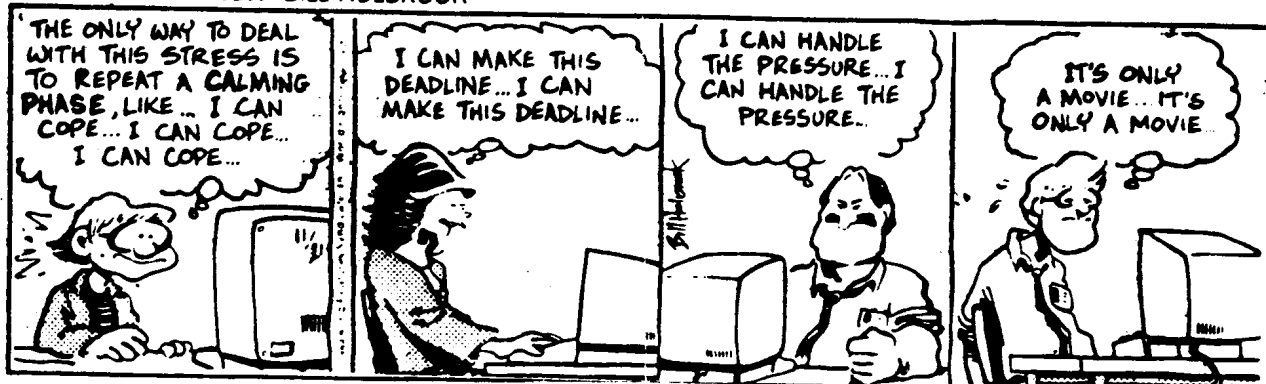
Archaeology has been nice to movie director Steven Spielberg, so he in turn has been nice to archaeology.

Sylvia Gaines, a member of the board of directors of the Society for American Archaeology, wrote recently to Spielberg suggesting that because his two movies

featuring archaeologist Indiana Jones, "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," were so successful, he might want to return the favor by contributing to the association.

Spielberg sent a check for \$5,000.

ON THE FASTRACK BILL HOLBROOK



From a Certain Point of View

Jeanine Hennig
PO Box 166362
Irving, TX 75016

Ah, where to start? How about with the threat that if this doesn't get in before Annie's LOC that I will come over to your house, Cheree, and PERSONALLY quiver my lip in your presence? ((Ed: So, is first letter in the zine good enough for you??))

Hey, I just thought of something! I've got an article this ish, right? Wouldn't it be just MARVELOUS if I got TWO things in ahead of her? WOW!! Then we'd be EVEN!! Ah-HAH--GOTCHA, Worthit!

(Now I can start my campaign on getting my LOC FIRST of all!)

Sally Syrjala: I, too, believe that the Jedi could do more with the Force than just sling a sword around. If such a power connects all living things, then there would be endless possibilities. And I was intensely gratified to find out that Jedi could throw Force-whammies! (In ROTJ)

Mary Kever: It's not Alfalfa, it's Fartatlot--the third planet of the Renal System! (Uh-oh, I just made this zine PG-13!) Seriously, tho, about the non-fen reaction, I've ceased to worry about it overmuch. If they can't take a joke...do it to 'em! (Good paraphrase, Maggie!) You have to be YOU, and if they can't take that, then they're not worth your worry.

I agree with Carol Peters on going to see JEDI and tearing it apart the first time. I was too engrossed with the movie to sit and nit it to death. After several viewings I had more perspective and could see things that irked me, but still, I like it.

Good golly, Sandra, you're even more long-winded than I am! But one point you made reminds me of one of my favorite musicals, "1776", about the Revolutionary War. Ben Franklin makes several quite clever statements (one thing about the musical is that it tells it fairly well

like it was, including Ben's lecherous reputation!), one of which is that "revolution is always illegal in the third person, such as 'their rebellion'; it's only in the first person, 'our rebellion', that it is legal." Damn, I wish I'd written that first; it sounds so Warsish! Also, as to "clean war fighters", see that same movie. (It's really quite good.) There are two very emotionally charged numbers, one about the hypocrisy of the New Englanders not liking slavery while they are the ones who sell slaves to the South, and one about a boy who thinks war is all glory, until he starts remembering about how several friends have been killed. "1776" should be required watching for all fen--it gives some amazing insights into rebellion for a "comedy" musical.

I also see a lot of merit in your statements about Leia and Han, but I think it was pretty much fifty-fifty on who hurt who in that relationship. What I saw was two frightened people, Leia the child who has never loved before and is afraid to be hurt and afraid to let it interfere in her cause, and Han, who was the image of the one who's been hurt before, and badly, and is thus afraid to reach out because everytime he does, he gets whacked. They were very much a Scarlett/Rhett relationship, a sad one, because often no one wins unless something drastic happens--which it did. Han's line was a REAL pain--but I like to think that he meant understanding of her proclamation. Both of them have tended to be real donkey's behinds at times (as well as Luke!), but that's human. It's anyone's guess who started the "I whack you before you whack me" thing between them. Both of those two admitted more by the simple look on their faces than by any words...if only they had looked at each other sooner.

Debbie Gilbert: Re the JEDI radio show, from what I heard, NPR doesn't have the money to do it. Thanks to political budget

cuts, we are minus a radio show. I had heard also that someone in fandom was trying to get their company to bankroll it--maybe there's something we fen can do to get one going.

Bev Clark: You were talking about names--it was really strange to me, when I first saw SW, to realize (I was right in the middle of German classes at the time) that Darth Vader actually meant Dark Father. I was totally baffled for the longest time, then TESB came out and wow! So THAT's what they meant!

Maggie Nowakowska: I'll have to try that recipe of yours next time I sit down at the typer. Coladas are a weakness with me. (So, THAT's how you get the ol' writer's juices going!) Seriously, you've made a really "need to be talked out" issue about bail-out. The same holds true for the strange and silly rivalries and disagreements that keep on for years at a time, sometimes. Fen seem to be a tolerant lot on the whole, but there's also that few that can't live and let live at all. Is it those few that cause the problem? Is it the tolerance? Is it these fights that cause people to bail out? It does seem that not a year goes by without a fan gaffiating for no reason at all--to the point of not contacting any of those s/he corresponded with. So many have dropped into the Twilight Zone. There does seem to be a problem, tho it beats me to truly figure out what it is at times. What IS to be done? Maybe sometimes we carry our obsessions a little too far. Fans are obsessive by nature, I think, and maybe we need to tone it down.

After reading Karen Finch's statement on Terri Black's article on color symbolism, I felt REALLY bad about the statement I made about being sick of it all. I really didn't mean it as a slight, Terri, and if you took it as such, please forgive. I meant no disrespect to the time you put in on the article, just that the subject matter was something that had seen a lot of overdoing lately. And

thank you for saying that Han IS a hero, if not THE hero. He most certainly is!!!

Jean Stevenson mentions that all of the SW constructs are alter-egos--waal, sure! Now, tell it straight, aren't most of the characters we write a part of us, somehow? But please, if I see another biblical comparison to Luke and Han, I think I'll go nutsy...

Mary Urhausen, you little crum! You mean you were in Texas and didn't stop to see me!? I'm hurt, shattered, etc. But even if I'm not secure in that fact, I, too, am secure in my characterizations, and I'll be the first to poke fun at them! You're right, a little disagreement isn't worth putting out a contract on someone, or something. And also, just because "my" Luke does something, doesn't mean that "your" Luke wouldn't do it different, and DEFINITELY that Lucas' Luke wouldn't do it the total opposite of both! Every well-written story is valid, even if you don't agree with it, because it touches someone. Isn't that what this craziness is all about?

Marlene Karkoska: You and I think "verra much alike". I personally think that Luke's "test" had to be tougher than the other Jedi before him, because he's the last of the dying race. He's got a lot more against him. (So, what's new, Jenni--this girl reads your stuff; she knows your morbid turns of mind...) At any rate, it is a good question whether or not a Jedi is immune to the Dark after he's made The Big Decision. Sometimes I think one thing, and then sometimes the other. Interesting...

I would bet quite a bit of money that Leia didn't see the Three Stooges--uh, Anakin, Ben and Yoda. She didn't NEED to. Luke felt alone, that he didn't have anyone left as his peer--and he didn't, truly. He needed to see them. (Besides, I think that Leia would have dropped her teeth if she'd seen them!)

As to the blue/green saber issue. Didn't anyone notice that, in the first trailer for "Revenge of the Jedi", Luke's saber WAS BLUE? Guess they changed their minds...

Marcia Brin: I don't think any of us (I know, I speak in broad terms) meant that SW was "mindless kiddy food." That's not what I meant, anyway. SW

is for kids, yes. But so were the old classic Bugs Bunny cartoons that had jokes in then that most kids wouldn't get if they were whacked with them. The kids appreciate the generals, adults appreciate the subtleties.

And "my husband, my wife" is wonderful, TO A POINT. But those words make me cringe, because it is that possessiveness, taken too far, that causes real problems. NO ONE "belongs" to anyone else.

Sorry, didn't mean to get up on my "aggravated at married = chained" soapbox, but that stuff really gets me steamed! I don't know if anyone realizes how frustrating it is to be thought of as property, or to be thought of as one who has no freedom just because you happen to want someone and want to be with them.

Melody Corbett: To quote John Adams from that same "1776" --good God! Didja ever think that Luke couldn't see in his helmet because he's considerably SMALLER and SHORTER than both Han and the average storm-trooper?

Ah, well, I guess I've run off at the mouth more than enough for one issue, hm? Take care, everyone out there, and talk atcha next ish!

Uh-oh, almost forgot--what the heck is "Stoltzfus"? ((Ed's note: Sorry, thought that was explained somewhere in Judi Grove's article last issue. "Stoltzfus" is an Amish name that is roughly as common as "Jones". The shirts were a joke--"Indiana Jones" became "Indiana Stoltzfus" while Harrison was filming WITNESS in Amish country.)) And, are there any other people out there who go for that "kiddy show" cartoon on Saturday mornings, DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS? Or am I the only crazy one who actually thinks there is something TO that very well-done show?

'Bye again!



Rose B. Arnold
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December 28, 1984

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE #6 arrived Christmas Eve and I spent several hours skimming through it which I should have used more sensibly for holiday preparations. Oh, well, who said I was sensible?

First of all, I want to give you a few words of encouragement and praise by repeating what most of the letters in SE#6 said: Please don't give up SE yet; we need you. Issue #5 must have been a real bummer; do I really want my missing copy? (You are working on that, aren't you, Cheree?) ((Ed: Comin' up!))

Noticed 2 good ideas in #6: the profile column and especially the letter index. How many times have I searched fruitlessly through a thick letterzine, looking for that "stupid" or "inspired" comment by so-and-so, and usually never finding it? (I know, I know; I should mark what I want as I read it, but who said I was organized, either?) The profile column is interesting, but it reinforces what I already knew: that I too am older than the average SW fan. That's why I was pleased to see Carol Peters' letter: we'll pool our gray hairs, Carol, and provide a little historical perspective on these proceedings, okay? Now, if I could only write.

I think all of the letters had something I related to this time, but I'll comment on only two.

B. J. Evans' letter could have been written by me, except I wouldn't have said it as well. I do, however, accept Luke and Leia as twins, simply because it is so right within the framework of Lucas' saga. Forget that Hamill and Fisher don't look anything alike; SW genetics are just different, that's all.

The other comment I'll add is to answer Melody Corbett's query about whether Harlan Ellison liked ROTJ. While I haven't seen a formal review in any of the usual sources if he wrote one, I'll refer Melody to Mr. Ellison's introduction to "Omni's Screen Flights, Screen Fantasies," David Deary, ed. (Doubleday/Dolphin Books, 1984). He repeats his usual refrain about the lack of good sf films,

especially the pernicious influence of the SW saga. However, he does admit a few good sf movies have been made and proceeds to list them.

My memory of his list is selective, but includes the following: 2001, THX 1138, A CLOCKWORK ORANGE, A BOY AND HIS DOG, TESB, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK ("has little relation to real sf, but is such a dear piece of work, it shouldn't be dismissed on grounds of excellence"; maybe not his exact words but close enough), BLADE RUNNER (yeah! both Melody and I are devoted fans of BR), and ZELIG. Since the latter was also released in 1983, I'm assuming Mr. Ellison didn't list ROTJ because he felt it didn't qualify as "good sf." (I'd like to know his opinion of TEMPLE OF DOOM. If you care, this old fan of Saturday afternoon serials loved it. BR fans should be sure to take a look at this book; more and more people are realizing what a masterpiece it is.) ((Ed's note: Including me. I didn't care for it when I saw it on the screen, but once it was out on videotape and I got a copy, I began to see more and more in it, each time I watched it. It really is an incredible movie.))

Keep up the good work, Cheree.

Non-Human Races

Barbara Tennison
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Los Angeles, CA 90025

January 7, 1985

Thanks to Laura Virgil for suggesting a letter index, which I think will help a lot!

Liz Sharpe's article on droid torture covers the issue so thoroughly that there seems little to say. Hmmm, the concept of machines as feeling beings and prosthetics as working sensory appendages does suggest that Vader, while he is held together by life-support machinery and functioning as a semi-cyborg (if you like that interpretation, which seems quite possible), is less of an unfeeling monster than we thought. He

probably feel to himself pretty much like a healthy body. This leaves him as a feeling monster, which is perhaps worse, for those twenty-odd years as Palpatine's right-hand man: no excuses about separation from his own physical humanity or being the victim of constant pain--he was just Dark, Dark, Dark.

Sally Syrjala: You ask why the Jedi wouldn't be able to prevent warfare by passive means such as preventing the weapons from exploding. I think you imply the answer yourself by noting the kind of power it would call for. It seems likely, from the movies, that Jedi don't (or don't all) have enough telekinetic strength to suppress fighting by such before-the-fact methods. They're given in the first place as (among other things) a martial order--or why should they carry usable swords at all? While this doesn't prevent the Jedi having been corrupted by their own power, it does suggest that the less-than-absolute power they did have was less than absolutely or immediately corrupting in itself.

Carol Peters: That the Endor funeral pyre burned only Vader's discarded armor has long been a pet theory of mine, and I'm glad someone else came to that conclusion as well. If Obi-Wan and Yoda dematerialized when they died, why not Anakin?

I will point out (as I'm afraid many will) that a commander does not outrank a general, but if you were being facetious on this point I must admit I'm enchanted by the caprice. Possibly an Alliance general doesn't outrank a Jedi commander (though an Army general does outrank a Naval commander)--after all, there is only one Commander Skywalker, no others I can recall; and there are several brand-new Alliance generals running around with far less authority than the term "general" implies. Why not interpret Lucas' rather confused use of American military terms as meaning that the Alliance rank titles are arranged differently? So maybe Commander Skywalker does outrank General Solo.

Assuming the ranks are relevant to the situation, however, that doesn't improve Luke's position on Endor, for it's more serious for the top-ranking guy

to up and leave than for anyone else to do so. If, on the other hand, he has delegated his command (as I interpret the talk with Leia to constitute a message to the effect of), everything's peachy.

Michelle Malkin: That's a good list of topics which could apply to the SW universe as importantly as to our own. As I've said before, I'm curious about whether more than 10% of the SW population is female, since so few show up on screen, but I don't want to reiterate that issue just now. How human and non-human races regard each other could be interesting: given the huge variety of non-humans, there's a wide selection of attitudes, depending on which non-human race was in question. There'd also be an attitude, or a range of them, to consider between any two given races, whether one of them happened to be human or not. At least some display indifference to humans in the Mos Eisley Cantina, and most of Jabba the Hutt's variegated minions seem less interested in which race Luke, Han, Leia/Bouschh and Chewbacca represent, than in how Jabba regards them. In other words, race relations amid the hurly-burly of the spaceways appear to be a matter of relative power, much as they are now.

At least one race works well with humans and can form friendships with them, namely the Wookiees--despite what seems to be a noticeable language problem. There are hints that Wookiees are a longer-lived race who regard humans somewhat as intelligent pets. Both Wookiees and Ewoks, we are told, have societies of their own in which humans and other non-Wookiee/Ewok races are superfluous. ROTJ shows a variety of non-humans in the Alliance, which is heartening, and not all in subordinate positions, either. All of this suggests that race relations between intelligent beings (N.B. I'm including droids as "race" in this discussion) can include meaningful communication if relative power is not the only issue.

One question SW doesn't particularly answer is whether those Mon Calimari, et al, are helping out the Alliance because it happens to suit them individually (as it does some humans, such as Lando and Han Solo), or because they're expecting poli-

tical considerations in the New Republic, like maybe open trade, citizenship, or just not being enslaved? Are there nonhuman organized groups who support or are members of the Alliance, or merely individuals? The varied beings shown in the SW universe suggest that the galaxy is not a neatly segregated place, and that there's no reason it should have to be.

Sandra Necchi: I'm one of those who agrees that fandom often analyzes and respects the SW characters more deeply than Lucas ever did. To all you others, let me explain: to Lucas, these characters don't have to be more than tools to tell his story, and the story may not even be the most important element of the movie. Lucas makes gripping, colorful movies, as I doubt anyone will deny. But he concerns himself with each character only as far as necessary to serve his total vision. Anything else would be a waste of his time and effort, which at three years per movie, is at something of a premium. (Okay, maybe it's only a year or so per movie given holidays and other projects, but the point stands.) To us, the characters are personalities, histories, symbols, archetypes, and parts of a complex puzzle, all at the same and with all those significances overlying the relationship between any pair of characters, or any group. Concentrating on the characters and story as we do, we're bound to come up with more intensive--certainly more varied!--interpretations than Lucas ever needed.

That's a nice subtle look at Leia and Han, though Han has already had this lesson implanted once before, when he left the Alliance at Yavin and then returned to save Luke over the first Death Star. Guess the lack of True Love wasn't as lasting as a teacher...

Maggie Nowakowska has another good slant on Leia, something all the chatter about her love life has obscured. (Why is everyone else who writes to SE more perceptive than I am?) Up until ROTJ, Leia's ambitions were clearly identified with the Rebel Alliance; as long as she was working for it (or vice versa), fine. If she can't slack off when the Rebels are in power, however, she might indeed become a political nuisance. The question is, maybe,

is she working all this time because she needs the work itself, or because she wants to get to a goal? Once she has what she wants, maybe she can sit back and write her memoirs. If what she wants is the process and excitement of rebellion (which certainly suits her temperament), the New Republic could be in trouble. ((Ed's note: I'm reminded of Thomas Paine, one of the firebrands of the American Revolution, the man who wrote "Common Sense", the pamphlet that became the rallying cry of the Rebels. After America won her independence, Paine became so hungry for the thrill of revolution itself that he left America in disgust and went to France, where he participated in the French Revolution.))

Tim Blaes: You should be writing for MAD Magazine (back when it was good). A collection of "SF Movies in Tim's Brain" cartoons would liven up any zine.

Elsie Bartok: The first place I remember hearing about Bail Organa not being Leia's blood father, and that her mother died early, was in ROTJ, where first, Luke deduces that Leia is his twin sister, which means that her father must be Vader/Anakin, and therefore not Bail (unless Bail Organa was also Vader/Anakin, which somehow I doubt), and second, Leia herself says that her mother died when she was very young, when she is talking to Luke on Endor. Up to these two points, no hint that Bail Organa wasn't her father, or that her mother wasn't alive and well, at least until Alderaan was destroyed, appeared in any SW source I know of. In other words, this was all a big surprise to everyone.

Marlene Karkoska: Good speculation on how a Jedi might be tested in normal times. The only way I can see around your deductions is to postulate that there are several types of Jedi who must work in combination to administer the usual test. Yoda and Obi-Wan between them might not constitute an adequate examining committee, and so had to improvise--and besides, they had this time-sensitive problem that was coming at them fast.

Jedi as government leaders is another good thought. Bail Organa was familiar with some Jedi, judging by his call for Kenobi in ANH. (Might he have

been one himself in hiding?) There's no reason to believe that Leia as a potential Force-user was stranded without a teacher any more than Luke was on Tatooine with Kenobi over the next dune. Certainly the guardians of justice of the Old Republic must have worked with its government in some sense, so the Viceroy of Alderaan would be more surprising if he didn't have Jedi contacts than if he did.

Chris Callahan: Exactly my thoughts on monomyths and their use in modern stories! As Brayton and LaVasseur also point out, these are very flexible models, which work because of what they are, not because we've seen them before and consciously imitate or recognize them. I've seen mythic patterns emerge in the work of writers who swear up and down, when asked, that they have never studied story structure in that way, never read Joseph Campbell, don't believe in Jung, and they're just telling the kinds of stories they happen to like. As with the sonata form in music, this isn't something that somebody sat down and figured out; it's something that just grew, and when the conditions are right, it still does.

Natural Tentacles?

Lin S. Ward
1703 Heritage Hill Drive
Richmond, VA 23233

December 28, 1984

A little "Rocky" music, please--this is my first official LoC! I don't count the entry in the last SE, as it was a personal note to Ye Editor, which found its way into black and white. ((Ed: Whoops! Sorry!)) And, I must confess, in print my letter looks rather hypocritical--a vitriolic letter, condemning vitriole! I apologize to those I offended.

However, I'd like to reiterate my support for the Editor, and indeed, my support for all of you who devote so much time and energy to producing fan-

zines. Even if I did have a thought in my head after getting home from work, I can't imagine having the energy and drive to write a story, produce an illo, or edit a zine. I'm just a glut-tonous consumer. Force bless you all for your creativity and productivity! ((Ed: Then, again, some of us are just closet masochists, too.))

Really enjoyed the article about Intercourse with Harrison Ford and can't wait to see the movie. But, I don't know about the medicine cabinet made from a toilet seat...

Thanks to Ann Wortham for detailing the IJ outtakes film-- I feel a little less deprived, now that I at least know a little of what you lucky ones saw. By the way, Ann, were you born with a naturally-tentacled head, or is that a secret between you and your hairdresser? (JUST KIDDING!) ((Ed's note: Actually, Annie is really Bib Fortuna in disguise.))

Sandra Necchi's review of KESSEL RUN #4 reminded me to grieve some more because this is the last issue. I think KR has been of consistently high quality, with lots of variety and numerous substantive pieces. Also, many interesting alternate universes. Well, there's always re-reading, isn't there?

I think everyone's speculations about the Force are fascinating.

Laura Virgil: It appears to me, too, that Obi-Wan hid on Tatooine for the express purpose of guiding Luke. This was so critical that he came back in one of his "blue screen scenes" to tell Luke about Yoda and Dagobah. It doesn't look as though being a Jedi or using the Force "comes naturally" at all; if Luke had been wielding the Force as a youth, I doubt his friends would have viewed him as "Wormie". The mind-blocking sounds feasible, though.

Sally Syrjala: You postulated that the Death Star could have been "defused" through psychic means. Makes sense to me! Kenobi said he "fought in the Clone Wars". I guess it could have been a mental battle instead of, or in addition to, a physical battle. I'm reminded of Counterpoint (Maggie Nowakowska), where the Jedi were able to fly special formations and accomplish complex tactical maneuvers by communicating through the Force (correct me if I'm

wrong, Maggie).

Wow--sex, violence, excess-- all in one letter! I'm referring to Michelle Malkin's list of topics for future debate. They all sound fascinating to me. What about the humanoid vs. non-humanoid issue? I note that the profic SW books recurrently mention the ostracism of nonorganics, for example. I infer a certain amount of prejudice against non-humanoids in the SW movies, because all of the Imperials portrayed appear to be humanoid. Such prejudice could've evolved with the Empire, rather than being a legacy of the Old Republic. If the revered Jedi of the Republic considered "the Old Mushroom" (hee, hee, Maggie) to be their greatest teacher, then perhaps species were less ethnocentric before the Empire. ((Ed: The Empire seems to have almost a "master race" concept, a la Nazi Germany, which they recall visually. I know the first time I saw Darth Vader, my first thought was "Death's-head in a Nazi helmet." Could be Lucas borrowed quite a bit from Earth history.))

Very much appreciated Bev Clark's list of sources.

Maggie Nowakowska's got a good point about Leia. Not that I'd expect Leia to Turn, but she certainly would have the strength and wherewithal to become an Empress.

Tim Blaes: I think I'd enjoy seeing Carrie Fisher play a weyrwoman if they ever filmed one of the Pern stories. Ms. Fisher might eschew it as type-casting, however. And I'd like to see Mark Hamill play "The Blue Adept" (Piers Anthony), even if they changed the story and had him wear clothes (lech, lech). I enjoy Harrison Ford in everything he does. Hmmm...how about Andrew Carr from the Dark-over universe? In fact, I'd settle for films of these books even without my favorite stars. On another subject, believe, me, Tim, I'd find the Alien a most effective Chief of Security!!

Elsie Bartok: re the "hidden sentient", there have been some delightful stories in SHADOWSTAR by Mickey Lackey, about almost-sentient starships. In the latest installment, we met a dashing ship with a John Wayne personality. I wonder who the Falcon would sound like?

I had always inferred that Vader single-sabre-edly brought

down the Jedi; however, Elsie Bartok's and Sally Syrjala's speculations cause me to wonder whether Vader led a group of fallen Jedi against the Republic; makes much more sense. It does seem incredible that only one student would fail. Maybe the Jedi had "rehabilitation programs" for Darksiders that went by the wayside during the Clone Wars?

Marlene Karkoska: Loved your discussion of the Jedi!

Chris Callahan: Enjoyed your comments on heros and Light vs. Dark Side!

And, now, on a less esoteric subject, would anyone care to offer advice on storing fanzines? I've been collecting for only a year, and already have a storage crisis. I've been filing my zines in penda-flex boxes, which makes them easy to locate, and seems to keep them in pretty good condition. But, they require a lot of space!

Finally (yes, finally), Cheree, I'm sorry you've been so ill, and hope you're feeling much better soon. I'm really glad you've been able to continue with SOUTHERN ENCLAVE despite everything, because I love reading everyone's ideas. Wishing you all a great 1985!

A Complaint

Ann Wortham
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I was going to write a short letter of comment regarding the recent issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE but I've changed my mind. This is a letter of COMPLAINT. How dare you print that picture of me??? At least the face isn't recognizable but my antennae still showed. I mean, how many people nowadays HAVE antennae?? Now, everytime someone sees me at a convention, they'll know right off who I am. You've ruined my ~~reputation~~ anonymity, for gosh sakes. And I told you not to put my REAL name on that trashy article. I suppose that since I've moved to Florida you think you can get away with stuff like that.

Well, I happen to be friends with THE Laura Virgil and she says I can sue you really cheap. And another thing, you better tell Jenni Henni to quit threatening me in the pages of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. I'll sue her too! ((Ed: Go suck a rock, Annie. I work for a law firm and I know more lawyers than you've ever seen! So there!))

Why Wormie?

Mary Keever
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January 1, 1985

I hope everyone had wonderful holidays! Enjoyed SE#6 and I'm glad it's still here.

Sondra Blodgett: I agree with you!! My first LoC was printed and I feel a wee bit embarrassed. (Y'know the old "Did I really write that?") It's strange to see something of your own in print.

I've got a question I hope one (or all) of you can help me answer. I can't for the life of me find out why Luke's nickname is Wormie! I've searched high and low and keep coming up with zilch! Thanks to any help.

On to the zine... Enjoyed both Judi Grove's and Ann Wortham's articles. Very, very, very much enjoyed "A Teleology of Torture."

Sharon Saye: Really liked your ideas about the Dark Side using its master. I think Vader was afraid for Luke on Bespin. I've always believed he wouldn't have killed Luke but, we'll never know.

Laura Virgil: I'm glad you made the suggestion about the table of contents for letters. I found it very useful. I agreed with just about all of your letter. Especially about Han at the Sarlacc pit. Very much liked your idea about "hiding in plain sight". It is so obvious that it's not obvious. Both Luke and Leia hidden in plain sight until the necessary time. Ben being near Luke when the time came then in turn Luke being near Leia.

Sally Syrjala: Your ideas about the Jedi falling would make a fascinating story.

Cheree: Don't know if I should be insulted or not; putting Jabba's pic before my first printed LoC?!

Carol Peters: You were talking about Luke putting Darth's "body" on the pyre. I agree--it wasn't his body--just the armor. I've always thought that when Darth/Anakin died his body "vanished" like the other Jedi we've seen at death (Ben and Yoda). I think Luke put Darth's armor on the pyre to put to rest all the pain and bad memories. A cleansing of sort. To be able to accept his love for Anakin, he had to get rid of Darth and all that was left of him.

Also thanks for the info on "Enter the Dark Lord." I hope it's true.

Michelle Malkin: I always like reading your letters--they are so well written! I don't always agree with what you say, but...

Yes, yes! A zine with nothing but Dark Side stories. I love it! ((Ed: But not from me! I've already got more irons in the fire than I can tend!))

Sandra Necchi: I always like your zine reviews and I'm glad you mentioned Jeanine Hennig's "Catalyst" series. It's wonderful. If any of you Luke-lovers out there haven't read any of her stories--SHAME ON YOU! Get busy!

In your answer to Barbara Tennison about what Luke loses as a Jedi, you said "everything." Well, he loses everything except his virginity (hee! But Jenni, Sally and I will certainly take care of that! Smile...sigh...)

Like your comments on war.

Debbie Gilbert: You were commenting on Bantha Tracks. A lot of my pals here have been saying how much they dislike the new slant it is taking (STAR WARS Lucasfilm Fan Club). I don't want to begrudge GL his fine work, but it is called SW...FC, and one hardly ever reads anything pertaining to SW in it anymore. The zines are all we have.

On your comments about "master"--Darth also calls himself a master, during the saber joust with Ben on the Death Star. "When I left you, I was but the learner; now I am the Master."

Bev Clark: Enjoyed your letter. Reading the different origins of the names always gives new insight into the characters.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your first paragraph sounds absolutely delicious! Got a big chuckle from the Falcon being the Other (a real big drink, eh?) Loved your idea of L&L's mom being Obi-Wan's sis. Sounds very plausible.

Jeanine Hennig: Hello, hello! Truly enjoyed your letter. Liked what you had to say about the age of the characters vs. the age of the actor. GOO-DIE, I didn't know you like Marc Singer!!! Hope all is well on Alfalfa.

Tim Blaes: All I can say is your letter was hysterical!!

Jean L. Stevenson: Your comments on the visual symbols in SW were very interesting, especially the sexual ones. Makes one think!

Sally Smith: You asked how come active SW fandom is mostly female. I've thought a lot about this. The only thing I can come up with (and I know it sounds biased) is that on the whole females seem more creative and more willing to spend time (lots of it) on something they enjoy.

Dr. Mary Urhausen: Glad to see an unmarried fan that doesn't view married=dead. I was married at 19 and everyone said it wouldn't work. It's almost been three years and it just keeps getting better. Both my husband and I were kind of wild. To me it's finally nice to settle down. I think Han could possibly feel that way!

Marlene Karkoska: Your remarks about the Jedi being human were great. I think Jedi have a better grip on emotions and actions but aren't totally infallible. Like the Pope, they are still human.

Well, I guess that is it for now. Time to crawl off to bed, and leave you with my favorite line (think I lifted it from Jenni)--"A Jedi wears black...or nothing at all!"



Bev Clark
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January 12, 1985

Sonia Blodgett: You should have received a private letter from me about quantum physics and physical indeterminacy. (I suspect you really mean by the latter "free will", based on the contradiction you pose between Yoda's and Obi-Wan's comments.) My answer, briefly, is that quantum physics does seem to me to be the truest description of the physical universe we now have, keeping in mind that truth in the quantum world is a slippery quality. Theory and experiment match remarkably well, especially considering that theory preceded experiment by 20 or 30 years in some cases. And as I understand the theory--on a very, very, extremely lay level--the real question is not whether physical indeterminacy exists in the universe, but whether physical indeterminacy does.

At a fundamental level, the universe is uncertain; the probability of this uncertainty is that there is no such thing as destiny in a physical sense. At the same time, the universe is not totally random, not unpredictable. That is, some things are more probable than others in a given situation, even if they are not certain (in quantum physics, we also lose cause and effect, as well as classical logic, in the sense we usually mean them). The situation has come about because of actions that have closed off certain future courses of action but at the same time opened up many new ones. All are equally probable until another action closes off some of them and opens up others, and so on.

So I don't see Yoda's statement ("Always in motion is the future") and Obi-Wan's ("In my experience, there is no such thing as luck") as contradictory, if by luck one means "random chance." The future is undetermined and fluid; at any given point, there is a near-infinity of possible futures. But which one you end up in (or bring about, which may be more correct), does not depend on random chance or luck but on your own actions. In SW, your ability to use the Force also affects what happens to you--

the point Obi-Wan was trying to make to Han. Curiously, and interestingly, physicists are now moving toward a total theory of the universe in which the universe and everything in it are mathematically just differing manifestations of one "superforce", and all matter and energy result from the interactions of force fields of different kinds. You and I and George Lucas and my typewriter are not just permeated and surrounded by the Force, we are the Force.

The caveat to this speculation in reference to SW is that, however fascinating it may be, it may be irrelevant. It may have nothing at all to do with SW or what GL (and/or Larry Kasdan) meant by those lines.

If anyone is interested in learning more about quantum physics and its implications, I especially recommend TAKING THE QUANTUM LEAP by Fred Wolf and THE DANCING WU LI MASTERS by Gary Zukav. Read them in that order, too. Wolf's book is a basic overview of the subject, arranged chronologically, which turns out to be in order of increasing sophistication. Zukav's book is more scattershot in its explanations about the theory, because he is more interested in discussing the philosophical implications of quantum theory, especially its radical break with traditional notions such as Aristotelean logic and its similarity to Eastern religions and philosophies.

Jean Stevenson: I can give you some of Joseph Campbell's remarks about the SW movies. The following quotations are from The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 5, 1983; Campbell was in town to promote his then-new book, THE WAY OF THE ANIMAL SPIRITS.

"Among Campbell's many admirers is producer George Lucas, the artistic force behind 'Star Wars'. Lucas has acknowledged that his space saga was strongly influenced by Campbell's work and, in appreciation, recently invited the scholar and his wife to his home, where they watched the three 'Star Wars' movies in one day.

"I hadn't seen a movie in 30 years and I was thrilled," Campbell says. "These movies are a wonderful fairy tale, a wonderful epic. Lucas is using mythological themes and

archetypal characters, using them against the vacuum of outer space, as a means to project ideals and symbolic actions. It becomes what I call "protomythology"."

The other remarks Maggie and I mentioned are from the New York Times Book Review at roughly the same time. I hope Maggie still has a copy of the article, because I don't!

Now I need to clarify a couple of points from my last letter: First, when I talked about editing of LOCs in an SF zine, I didn't mean to imply that an SF zine editor might censor ideas; the average SF fan would be as horrified by that as the average media fan. Second, Gracia Fay Ellwood, who discussed the Japanese and Chinese soundalikes for Han Solo's name, approved of Han and also discussed the character as a possible type of the Fool from the Tarot, a sort of holy innocent, but a positive and important character. She did, however, feel that the meanings of those soundalikes were fitting for Han's surface personality, which does have a tendency to act first and think later. And, of course, there is no way of knowing whether GL had any knowledge of this.

I particularly enjoyed Liz Sharpe's article on torture. Her grasp of the droid torture scenes in ROTJ, especially the cinematic reasons for them, is sensible and plausible. On the purpose of torture, a couple of points can be added to Liz's discussion: to gain information that cannot be gotten any other way, and to win leverage over a third party, such as a relative or friend of the person being tortured. These are the reasons Vader tortures Leia and Han in ANH and TESB, respectively.

As for whether droids feel pain (and are thus appropriate creatures for torture), ability to feel pain has at least two components: ability to sense a physical stimulus of a particular sort, and ability to interpret the perceived sensation as unpleasant, causing hurt, warning of something wrong, or implying impending loss of individual existence. Even our contemporary machines should be able to satisfy the first part of the definition. The actual physical mechanism by which a stimulus is perceived is a simple electrical signal, whether

it betokens stimulation of living nerve ends or of resistors and transistors. What our machines can't do, and Lucas' droids apparently can, is interpret a particular sort of electrical signal as painful, with all that that implies. Therefore the droid's pain is "real", because the reality is in the interpretation, not the signal itself. The difference between the droid and the living being is that the droid's ability to feel pain is programmed into it (but doesn't have to be), whereas normal living beings possess it inherently.

I must disagree with Sandra Necchi that fans have a deeper or richer, or simply superior, view of SW than GL because fans focus on characterization. It's different, yes, but not "better" any more than the modern novel, with its heavy focus on characters above all else, is better than the medieval "roman," with its focus on symbols, the fantastic, and archetypal characters. Both are products of their time and of a particular prejudice about what constitutes good, or acceptable, literature. The current trend in favor of deep characterization of individual characters is less than 200 years old and came in only with the development of the novel as the primary form of literature. There were artists before that time who created rich characters--Shakespeare comes to mind for the major characters in his plays--but they were not necessarily revered as they are today, or not for that reason (Shakespeare was out of favor for many years). Artists, in general, have tended to reject the conventions of their eras, and the critical establishment has generally taken them to task for it.

This seems to be GL's sin. He appears uninterested in making movies according to critical strictures and worse, admits that he doesn't even like some of the things currently considered de rigueur in serious work. (Put me in his camp in that respect. I don't like heavy characterization, either, which is why I don't like 20th century serious literature for the most part.) What he wants to do may or may not turn out to be an irrelevant tangent (I'm not sure how many other people are interested in seeing how fast movies can move before they become in-

comprehensible) but it's "wrong" only because current prejudice doesn't regard it as acceptable. The SW movies fall into a category we have relegated to childhood, but they would have been perfectly admirable examples of stories suited in theme and telling for adults at one time. They may become so again when fashions in literature, filmed or otherwise, change.

About fraternal twins having to have some similarities in appearance: how many other people saw the photographs in TIME and NEWSWEEK and various newspapers of the fraternal twins born to an interracial couple in England? One is blond and blue-eyed like his mother, and the other is dark-skinned, dark-haired and dark-eyed like his father. I did a little revision of my thinking about whether L&L look enough alike to be credible twins when I saw those photos! Genetics isn't quite so simple as "like father, like son", and it is entirely possible for two brown-haired, brown-eyed parents to produce a blue-eyed blonde. I ought to know. My parents both have brown hair and hazel eyes, but I have red hair and blue eyes, one sister has blonde hair and blue eyes, and the other sister has black hair and dark brown eyes. But go back a couple of generations, and there are ancestors with all of those combinations. However, I think Jean Stevenson is right that L&L's mother has to be brown-eyed for Leia to have brown eyes. Blue is recessive, so a person has to have both genes for blue eyes in order to have blue eyes; if both parents have blue eyes, there are no genes for brown eyes to be passed on, because both parents have two blue-eyed genes.

3PO's comment on the Falcon's "peculiar dialect" rings more true because of his supposed familiarity with 6 million forms of communication. Who is more likely to make comparisons? Take an example from computing languages: there are many forms of BASIC, but I, as someone who doesn't know any of them, am in no position to know which of these, if any, is peculiar. Why does 3PO need R2? Speculation: this peculiar dialect might be one R2 knows, or R2 might be useful because of the subject matter. 3PO is a protocol droid, not a mechanic, and he might simply find the communication

difficult because his programming includes very little information about starship drives and other things a protocol droid is not likely to need to know.

Thank you to Danaline Bryant for reprinting the excerpt from Art Widner's zine. (Preen, preen.) Both Maggie and I have seen the zine, which only just came out, and we now are in the position of having to keep the promise we made to Art to (a) comment on his zine, and (b) list our candidates for 10 best SF movies.

God-Like?

Dr. Mary Urhausen
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January 8, 1985

I can't believe it--it's still weeks til your deadline, and I am sitting here writing this LoC! Amazing how much you can get done when your snowed in for three days!!

First of all, I loved Judi Grove's humorous rendition of her adventures stalking the elusive Mr. Ford. Thanks, Judi, for sharing your experiences with all of us. I guess I'm a little too envious to say that it was the next best thing to being there; let's just say it's the closest thing to being there that most of us will ever get! (This reminds me of a letter I got the other day, inquiring about our zine; the return address on the envelope was: "World's #1 Harrison Ford Fan!" --and it was postmarked New Zealand! My mother's comment: "I didn't know his wife lived in New Zealand...")

I'm also very happy and relieved to see that you have decided to go on publishing SE, Cheree. I think the tone of most of the letters in SE#6 were a lot more considerate and, not coincidentally, a lot more interesting, than the tone of many letters in the past. In fact, I marked so many things in the margins, I'm still going to have to abbreviate my remarks--not on the basis of time, for once, but on the basis of length!

Mary Keever: I'll take a crack at your question about

non-fen reaction to our interest in SW. Frankly, I think most of them are puzzled, but not really too interested one way or the other! In my profession, I have lots of "acquaintances", few of whom know I'm a SW freak; and a small circle of relatives and friends who know I am! The latter group views the whole thing with reactions ranging from amused tolerance to outright aiding-and-abetting (these are the folks you can always count on to buy you SW sheets for Christmas and action figures for your birthday!). I have never encountered any really negative reaction from anyone concerning my interest in SW, even when viewed in its most extreme forms: publishing a SW zine, and going to cons. (Let's face it, folks--this is about as weird as it gets in "real life"!.) If anything, I think some of my friends envy my enthusiasm, and the pleasure it has given me (...even as they are shaking their heads slowly and saying, "You paid how much for a drawing of Luke who?"!) What else but SW and fandom has enriched so many lives, and demanded so little in return?

Sandi Necchi: If George Lucas isn't a creative genius, just where did the whole SW universe come from in the first place?? Or are we confusing the concept of "genius" with the concept of "perfection" or "godlike"? All one has to do is view "Amadeus" to see the distinction I am making. Yes, I, too, know some fans who think that they know and care more about SW than Lucas ever could; and my suggestion to them is that if they have that kind of fervor and knowledge to impart to a project, start your own sf or fantasy universe--I would love to read it! Let's love this SW universe (and the various deviations of it we've all created), and let's pour our passion into exploring it, more deeply than Lucas may have had time or desire to--but let's never forget whose universe it is. Trying to reduce George Lucas to a money-hungry cretin who couldn't imagine his way out of a paper bag sure doesn't say much for the incredible mind that gave us folks like Han Solo and Luke Skywalker!

Now, Sandi, since I already have your hackles up (I can hear the sound of hackles rising all the way here in Wisconsin!), I

also want to disagree with you on "the atrocity of TEMPLE OF DOOM"! If the film made you so angry, at least we know it didn't bore you; but anyone who lets their disappointment in a film ruin a whole con for them, as you said your friend did, needs a healthy booster shot of reality! I loved the film, and the only thing I found offensive in it were those poor elephants in chains. As far as "racism" goes, I suppose as an American of German descent, I should have been outraged at all those evil Germans in RAIDERS--shucks! Here I had a chance to be outraged at an Indiana Jones film, and I never caught on to how my "race" was being exploited! Too bad Lucas and Spielberg couldn't have twisted the truth some and presented a "sanitized, de-racismized" view of India in the 1930's; and too bad it's too late to make Indy anything but a white, probably Anglo-Saxon, probably Protestant, definitely male....! And curious how two of the really heroic figures of the film are both non-WASPs: Shorty (who isn't even an adult) and the Indian village holyman.

Jeanine Hennig: Hi, Jenni! Enjoying Ripley's smut? It's people like you who keep that poor woman writing that trash! If you start kicking your poor dog over letters in SE, I'm going to have to report you to the ASPCA!

I agree with you 100% about your comments on quality in zines. When I buy a zine, I don't want to have to worry about the staples falling out, or the pages being illegible, or the illos so poorly reproduced that I can't even tell which character I'm oogling. By publishing a zine, I've found out that quality costs! But I've also found out that most people appreciate quality, and are willing to spend a few dollars more to have a zine that looks good and lasts as well, not just a throw-away "toilet paper quality" job. (That was not a "Commode" pun!!)

Tim Blaes: (Come on, admit it, Tim--you just love being the only man issue after issue in a letterzine full of women!!) Like you, I wouldn't express an opinion without the full realization that sooner or later (for me, sooner!) someone who disagrees with that opinion will turn disagreeable. And I also subscribe to your theory about

the displaced ~~JEKKS~~ disagreeable people from old ST fandom: They have indeed been resurrected as the disagreeable people in SW fandom (and it didn't take any ceremony on Vulcan to accomplish the task, either...) But what the hell; if we didn't all crave a little aggravation, we wouldn't be fans, right?? A little "agreeable friction."

Sally Smith: Hey, I can segue right into this from my first comment to Tim! Why does active SW and other media fandom seem to be over-whelmingly female? I think part of the answer lies in the word "active"; there may be as many male SW and media fen, but you don't see many of them at cons or in zines, unless they're married to an active female fan (...uh, lest that be misinterpreted, let me clarify that! Active in fandom!). MediaWest 3 was the first con I went to, and I was surprised at the lopsided ratio of women to men. It's less so at non-media cons, of course; in fact, I've been to some where there are more men than women (list available on request...but you might want to think twice about it!). Maybe it would take a man to answer this, but my suspicion is that men are more sensitive to the ridicule and outright disbelief attendant to being discovered as a media fan. Women--at least women in fandom--are less reliant on outside opinions of their interests and enthusiasms. I would be very interested to see this discussion continued, because I've long been curious about it, too.

Elsie Bartok: In response to your question about zines only coming out once a year, and usually at MediaWest, as an avid zine-buyer, I share your frustration; but as a fledgling zine-publisher, I can give you another point of view. We only come out once a year for several reasons. First of all, neither Samia nor I have the time to devote to daily or weekly work on a project like this; we need a deadline that will allow us to put the zine aside sometimes for weeks at a time as other needs intrude. Secondly, we don't yet have the access to the volume of fan work that would allow us to publish more than one issue a year; we can only print what we get, and it wouldn't make two or three issues a year. And the

biggest reason is cost. Most of the cost of printing is the initial fixed cost, whether your zine is 100 pages or 300 pages long. In other words, it doesn't cost the same to print three 100-page zines as it does one 300-page zine--actually it would cost nearly three times as much!! As to why we come out at MediaWest, for us the reason is simple: we started there, so a one-year printing cycle puts us there again. And it is still the best opportunity to sell zines--a crass but necessary consideration in publishing them. All I can suggest is what I try to do; I buy about 75% of my yearly zine purchases at MWC, but I try to ration them out so I don't read them all in one big blitz in June!

As a final note, has anyone heard anymore recent gossip/speculation/whatever on the status of future SW films? Or about a proposed SW cartoon series for TV?

Respect Ideas

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January 2, 1985

You timed SE#6's arrival so that it might be a Christmas Eve present of thought to be digested. Many thanks.

Hope that your health has improved and that 1985 passes peaceably for you.

Sandra Necchi brings up the question of whether we should cherish all ideas. To me ideas are growth and life, and all forms of life need to be held dear. We put ourselves in the role of god when we say we absolutely know what is a right idea and what is a wrong idea and which have a right of life and which do not. All life and ideas are precious commodities which need to be nourished and respected lest they turn into an unruly weed trying to take life from all surrounding it.

The beginnings of all things, including ideas, are indeed delicate and a lack of caring and respect and cherish-

ing can turn those beginnings into warped creatures. It is important to recognize that censure can too easily be turned to censorship and that censorship will only result in a brewing and fermenting of the item in question.

Disagreement is a matter entirely different from attacking. You can disagree with something in a manner that realizes its right to life. You are merely saying that you do not agree with a certain viewpoint, but accept another's right to do so. It is a thin, but important line.

As in IDIC, we need to recognize the differences of others and cherish those differences, for it is the many ranges of ideas and opinions that give color to our lives. Would we be able to think new thoughts if there were not conflicting ones about to give rise to those new ideas?

Too, is it right for us to be able to determine what is "good" and "bad"? Man lived in Eden until the Tree of Knowledge was tried. It was then he tried to take a godlike stance in determining good and evil and right and wrong and trying to make those who had differing opinions think as did he. Did the giving away of the original state of innocence make us so insecure that we could no longer abide the existence of life and ideas that might be in conflict with our own tenets?

Conflicting ideas can tell us more about our beliefs and how they are structured than do ideas which support such beliefs, for the conflicting ideas force us to think out why we think as we do and it is such thought which strengthens inner resolve and causes us, not only to see how our belief patterns were formed, but it is hoped to also have more sympathy with the opposing belief. I do think that all life/ideas are to be cherished. They need not be something with which we agree, but they do need respect and care, for only when we give respect to ideas which may be alien to us can we hope to achieve a more universal growth within.

The SW saga seems to be speaking of this need to respect the individual and their ideas. It is saying the individual is important in the scheme of things. The Great Empire can

be defeated by a group of insurgents who have only their ideals as their core. If this group had been given respect of their differing value systems, would not the Rebellion have been averted? If all the people had been represented and their views respected and cherished, all the violence and death the Rebellion brought with it could have been avoided.

It is when the needs, the ideas, of a group of people are neglected to be taken into consideration that conflict arises. I hope the leaders of the Rebellion will be shown wise enough to realize that they, too, can make the same error of ignoring the needs and wishes of those with whom they are in contention. I believe that only when the ideas of all the peoples are treated with care (cherished) that true peace amongst all peoples can be attained.

Melody Corbett makes a good point when she says the helmet of the storm trooper can be a way of limiting their viewpoint. I agree that it is a good symbolization of a blinder. It could prevent the sight from being directed from any except a direct, straight-forward pattern. All side views and possible distractions could be averted. It is an interesting symbol of the universal soldier who is fed only that information which will make him fight more fiercely. Propaganda being more the notion than the truth, for without the army, could the Emperor keep all the galaxy under his thumb? If the army thought of what it was doing, would it continue to do as it has? Don't we all tend to abdicate our responsibilities to our leaders when it comes to such items? What would happen if the individual stood out in such cases en masse and said "no"?

As such, the SW saga can also be looked upon as a statement about the individual and the lack of role he plays in his government. It seems to say that individual citizens can make a difference in things. It further seems to say that if we continue to abdicate our role as responsible citizens to our leaders, then perhaps we deserve what we get. As a result of this sloughing off of duty, the citizen is looked upon more as the servant of the government than the other way around, for the government should serve its

peoples. The Empire thinks the reverse is true.

Will the Rebel Alliance be able to see that it must serve all the people it governs and do so in a way which takes all those people and all the views of those people into consideration? Only if they respect all people, including those with whom they disagree and consider in error, will they be able to responsibly represent those people.

Debbie Gilbert brings up the OSWFC. I look to it as an advertisement for which you have to pay. There does not seem to be any discussion of the saga on an intelligent level. There is no real fan forum provided. They seem to play to the lowest common denominator in the matter which they produce. The newsletters always seem to be a season or two late in their arrival. For a business operation, this is not something which should be tolerated. Timeliness is the least you should be able to expect from a professional organization.

Cynthia Manship brings up the point of letterzines being a point of contact and life blood for those of us not in the fan centers of the universe. I, too, find them a good stimulant to thought on the SW saga for one who has no fan living within reasonable commuting distance. I have never found another acti-fen on the Cape since I became involved in fandom back in '75 or '76. No one in ST, SW, SF or related fields are here to let you know you are not alone. So the letterzines are a nice way of knowing there are indeed others out there who like to discuss and muse over the same things which hold my attention.

Mary Urhausen also brings up the good point that marriage is not death. Indeed such a relationship can bring forth growth and change which would not have otherwise been the case, for in your partner are not only areas which are compatible, but those which are contradictory as well. In that contradiction, you help to see your own contradictions and hopefully learn acceptance of others' ways. I have been married for sixteen years and think that in that time I have grown. Instead of becoming stifled, the "right" kind of marriage--one in which both people allow the other to be the other instead of trying to make

them into an image of what it is deemed they should be--can lead to stimulation which leads to growth and new directions.

Hope the New Year treats us all kindly. For now...PEACE.

A Jedi's Role

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Several people have addressed me on the subject of the Jedi Order and I'd like to respond with one message, rather than ask Cheree to print several repetitive replies: I tend to see the Jedi as an Order that would've give its members great personal freedom regarding lifestyle, choice of profession, and possibly even freedom to base a decision on personal moral convictions (i.e., a pacifist's refusal to fight/kill in a war). I would imagine that the Order included members who lived in some sort of communal arrangement with their fellow Jedi, as well as others who chose to live and work in non-Jedi society. I agree with those who think that the Jedi would've been encouraged to enter various professions, putting their talents to use in the service of Galactic society as well as in service to the Jedi Order, itself. (I'm assuming that the Order's interests were compatible with the best interests of society in general.) I do believe that there were Jedi whose talents and temperament would've led them into military service, yet here, I am somewhat confused. The fact that Kenobi had served Bail Organa during the Clone Wars indicates to me that the Jedi had no police force or military branch of its own, yet Elsie Bartok contradicts this with a valid point: the Jedi were the "guardians of peace and justice" in their galaxy and it does seem logical that the Order would've included some sort of law-enforcement branch. And here's where the confusion (my confusion!) begins: Wouldn't an interstellar police force attract the same sort of individual who'd enjoy

a military career? True, there are differences between the military and the police, but I think the similarities are more numerous. So why was Kenobi serving Bail Organa? Surely, a police force composed of Jedi Knights would've been able to fight as a unit, under its own leadership, when was came to the galaxy. Given a Jedi's superior abilities, I don't think it would've been practical to split up a Jedi police force to place its members under non-Jedi command... Is it possible that the Jedi Order was a "house divided" regarding participation in the Clone Wars? Is it possible that those Jedi who wished to participate in this conflict joined non-Jedi military forces, while other Jedi did not participate at all? Perhaps this clone conflict had divided the galaxy as Vietnam had divided America.

P. J. LaVasseur/B. Brayton: I tend to see Leia as a politician who'd been forced by circumstance to function as a soldier. Given her actions, in all three films, I think she'd make an excellent "Jedi warrior", but I agree with you, that Leia would prefer a political career.

Chris Callahan: Always glad to hear from a member of the "Flawed Hero Appreciation Society"! I enjoyed, and agreed completely with your very clear definitions of Darkness and Light.

Karen Finch: You're absolutely right about Han. He may not be THE hero (in the sense of "hero" and central character), but he is certainly A hero in every other sense of the word!

Jeanine Hennig: The Tabernacle of Wedge? Great! How about the DAGOBA of Yoda, for fans with more...er...exotic tastes? (I've been told that "dagoba", without the "h", is some sort of Hindu shrine. Someone correct me if I'm wrong.) And why stop there? To which establishment should we direct those Silent Few (and, God knows, there may be one or two!) whose hearts are palpitating for Palpatine? (What's that awful retching sound? Jeanine...are you okay?) By the way, I just wanted to tell you that my reasons for watching "V" are very similar to yours...except that I'm of the "Ham Tyler" persuasion!

Sharon Saye: Yes, I can

imagine a group of politicians objecting to Luke's rebuilding the Jedi Order. I think this group would be, at best, sadly misguided, but I'd love to see Luke deal with this problem, in fanfic. I don't agree that he'd "flee to Dagobah and never return." A man who could face Vader and Palpatine, as Luke did in ROTJ, is highly unlikely to run from ANYTHING. Have a little faith in The Last Jedi, Sharon!

Marlene Karkoska: I agree with your suspicion that Luke's test was "tougher than most" and "a little out of the ordinary." (Has anyone ever suggested that you have a gift for understatement to go with your gift for presenting logical arguments?) I'd also like to comment, here, that Luke's mission in life was/is "a little out of the ordinary." He had not been trained to function as a Jedi Knight in an already existing order; he'd been expected to end the dictatorship of an emperor (and a dark lord) who'd already broken the Jedi Knight-hood, and he'd been expected to rebuild the Jedi ("Pass on what you have learned"). As your letter said, the fact that Yoda had charged Luke with this enormous responsibility tells us just how much confidence The Great Green One had in his former student.

Mary Keever: Just wanted to say "hi" to another overgrown child who collects SW toys. Can't wait for the new "Anakin Skywalker" action figures to turn up in Philadelphia toy stores!

Cheree Cargill: If, as you've suggested, Anakin/Darth had been in his sixties at the time of his death, there may not have been a very great age difference between him and Ben Kenobi. I'd originally thought that there'd been, at least, a generation between them, but the age gap may have been less than twenty years. Having fought together in the Clone Wars, and having been friends, each of these two (regardless of his military rank) might've looked upon the other as an equal. As someone once said (in SE), men who fight in a war together, get to know each other very well. I think it's entirely possible that Anakin and Kenobi might've known each other's private thoughts, personal problems, shared mutual interests, and

may have enjoyed the same social activities for years before the Clone Wars ended. I can easily imagine Anakin as you described him (a man in his late thirties to mid-forties "flushed with his own successful life and war record"), trying to adjust to his new role as student of an old friend. Given Kenobi's statement about his own "pride", I think he might've mishandled this new and difficult situation, causing Anakin to feel considerable resentment.

Judi Grove: Thanks for telling us about your day in Intercourse with Harrison Ford. I'm sure that those who haven't had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ford obtained vicarious enjoyment from reading about your experience.

Brand New Readers: Now, aren't you sorry you missed the December issue of SE? ((Ed: Never fear! Copies of issues 3-6 are still available!))

Ann Wortham: I'd heard bits and pieces about the IJATTOD blooper reel. Thanks for telling more about those hilarious details!

Liz Sharpe: The "droid torture sequence" hadn't struck a false note with me and I enjoyed reading your intelligent defense/explanation of why GL included this scene in ROTJ.

Tim Blaes/Sandra Necchi: I don't think Obi-Wan looked gleeful after chopping up those cantina patrons. I think he looked indifferent.

Cheree: Regarding the above-mentioned cantina fight, you're right. Kenobi didn't kill anyone in the cantina, on screen. He did, however, kill two of the low lifes in the novelization.

Maggie Nowakowska: Loved your thought that Leia may be tempted to abuse her newly discovered powers-in-the-Force, but even more, I loved seeing Yoda referred to as "the Old Mushroom." I'd really enjoy some fanfic in which Yoda is presented as something less than a near-god who keeps his students in Reverent Awe. ((Ed's note: I think it would be a fascinating, though daunting project, for someone to do a story about what Yoda has seen in his 900 years--the history of the Republic, the personalities, his own growth in the Force, his culture and people, etc.))

Danaline Bryant: Loud ap-

plause for your reminder that fan fiction is a "wide-open, free-spacin' area where ANYTHING GOES". I don't have to agree with a theory (believe it's on-screen fact) to enjoy its expression in fanfic. I'm not suggesting that we confine our theories/speculations to fan fiction; SE is a great place to share our flights of imagination--but I would like to say that I enjoy so many of those alternate universes/what-if's and stories that have been "dated" by ROTJ. Like you, I especially like stories that elaborate upon or give new meaning to on-screen remarks or events. My favorite stories are those that make me say, "Blazes! I'd never looked at it that way before!"

Dr. Mary Urhausen: Hi, Mary! Just wanted to clear up a misunderstanding. Neither Danaline Bryant (a happily married woman) nor I (a satisfied single) believe that married=dead. Our shared opinion about Han-as-a-Husband was a comment on Han's personality, not on marriage, itself. I had mistakenly assumed that marriage would force Han into a sedentary life that he would find intolerable. Fortunately, others came up with what I consider believable alternatives to my "predictions" for this character--which only goes to show that, with a little imagination, you can have it both ways! And speaking of having it both ways...have you (or has anyone else) considered writing a story based on your idea that Mrs. Skywalker might've conceived twins by two different men? This is exactly the sort of idea I was referring to in the above message to Danaline. It's imaginative, remotely possible, outrageous--and it's certainly a Last Laugh Answer to those of us who are arguing that Leia is either Luke's sister or the biological daughter of Bail Organa.

Two Last Comments: Three cheers for the letter index! It is a great help when searching for a specific letter. And I loved seeing photos of various fans in SE, even though they didn't reproduce very well. I don't know how others feel about this, but I'd enjoy seeing some likeness (however blurred) of the people that I've been addressing in SE.

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January 13, 1985

Now that we've heard from the Church of Ford, the Cathedral of Luke, and the Tabernacle of Wedge, it's time the Cult of the True Imperial made some noise. After all, Han, Luke and Wedge are fine fellows to be sure, but there's just something about those British accents...

Seriously, though, I must defend the honor of Admiral Piett from the aspersions cast by LaVasseur and Brayton in Issue #5, to wit: "Ozzel probably suspected Piett wanted his job, and he was probably right." Granted, two people can look at the same piece of film and come to entirely different conclusions; and we are all arguing from very skimpy evidence when it comes to the actions of Imperials. Nonetheless, I don't see any backstabbing on Piett's part. When we first see him in TESB, Piett calls to Adm. Ozzel to inform him of a potentially significant piece of intelligence. Note that the minute he has Ozzel's attention, he lowers his voice. If he were bucking for Ozzel's job, he'd make sure Vader overheard, but he does just the opposite. It is Ozzel who raises his voice to berate Piett in front of the entire bridge crew--and thereby commits a major breach of military etiquette. One does not reprimand a subordinate in front of his command! If Ozzel wanted to dress down Piett, he should have called Piett into his office. It is at this point that Vader steps in, to check out the find and possibly to protect Piett from unmerited abuse by his CO. Later, when Ozzel is executed (and what we see is a summary execution), Piett registers, not elation or satisfaction, but dismay! (I've said it before and I'll say it again, the range of expressions that went across Piett's face in that scene should have gotten Kenneth Colley an Academy Award.) Throughout the saga, Piett behaves like a gentleman: he does an honest job, he's courteous, and he never raises his voice any louder than he needs to.

As a matter of fact, the only incident I see that might be called Imperial back-stab-

bing is the quarreling between Tarkin's faction and Vader in ANH, and that was pretty overt. In ROTJ, Vader puts the wind up Jerjerrod, it is true, and without mincing words (though again, please note, he does so quietly enough that Jerjerrod isn't shamed in front of his men). However, when the Emperor arrives, Vader tells him, "The Death Star will be completed on schedule," thus keeping Jerjerrod in His Majesty's good graces rather than undercutting him. Vader's own people, with the exception of Ozzel, seem to work harmoniously together.

Ozzel's behavior calls for some comment. "I want proof, not leads," he says, and then in the next breath, "It could be anything. If we followed up every..." Well, if you don't follow up your leads, you won't get any proof. Then he brings the fleet out of hyperspace within Rebel sensor range, and claims (according to Gen. Veers) that he did so to preserve the element of surprise. The only way he could have preserved the element of surprise that way would have been to come out with his guns blazing. He didn't, so of course the Rebels promptly raised their shields. A first-year cadet should have known better than that! Either Ozzel is incompetent, as Brayton and LaVasseur state, in which case one wonders how he made Admiral in this supposedly crack Starfleet in the first place; or he is a traitor (Gordon Carleton once did a vignette on this premise), in which case his summary execution was perfectly justified. (Most military establishments, including our own, allow for such executions in case of treason in combat.) Ozzel's treatment of Piett could support either thesis: either he's a boor who doesn't observe basic military courtesy, or he's trying to destroy the morale of a loyal and competent officer.

A few stray comments: To Carol Peters (issue #6): There are several of us Mature Fen out here. I'll be 40 by the time this letter is printed, and I know a couple of others who are near the same age. All of us are Imperial fen--I wonder if that's significant?

On Liz Sharpe's "Teleology of Torture": I tend to think Jabba uses torture pour encourager les autres, i.e. to keep his organic followers in line.

After all, if he's so mean he'll even torture a machine, what will he do to organics? Remember, all power, whether legal or not, rests on the ability to reward your friends and punish your enemies. Jabba obviously cannot go to law to settle his disputes; the only way he can stay in business is by making others afraid to oppose him. This both discourages competitors and assures Jabba's clients that he can protect them against the depredations of rival gangs. Anyone who has read The Godfather will see what I mean. This is not to say that Jabba may not enjoy watching someone else suffer; he shows every sign of doing so. On the other hand, he may simply be callous, like the people on our own planet who enjoy blood sports (such as bull-fighting, cock-fighting, or even boxing) and don't identify with the pain of the living creatures in the arena. Certainly no one would ever accuse Jabba of being sensitive.

Ms. Sharpe doesn't address what may be the classic use of torture, i.e. to gain information or to ring a confession out of a suspect. Vader does this once, at the beginning of ANH, to the Rebel officer. His questioning of Leia is probably a mind probe rather than torture per se--the interrogation droid carries a hypodermic which likely contains some sort of "truth serum" (this in itself probably equals torture in the eyes of a juvenile audience, since most kids hate getting shots). The torture of Solo in TESB is, of course, not to gain information, but to create "bad vibes" that will bring Luke to the scene. (In case it matters, my personal politics are completely opposed to torture--I merely comment here on what I see, without any implied approbation.)

On the use of color in the SW universe: I understand that, according to Jungian symbolism, white connotes sterility or ignorance, while black connotes origins (the absence of light inside the womb) or the attainment of knowledge. If we use this schema, then Luke's change of costume color, from white through neutral shades to black, symbolizes his growth in knowledge and wisdom.

On Kenobi asking Luke to kill his own father: Granted, families are often divided in civil war, but the members know

they are on opposite sides, often as a result of agonized soulsearching. Luke was set up by Kenobi and Yoda to kill Vader, barely even knowing who Vader was, let alone their relationship. In fact, Kenobi made a flat statement, "Darth Vader betrayed and murdered your father," which any reasonably prudent person would have taken at face value. This is part and parcel of the double standard practiced throughout the Star Wars saga, wherein the Imperials are condemned for arresting a Senator caught in a flagrant violation of diplomatic immunity, while the Rebels' "perfect knight" (Mark Hamill's description) can get away with subornation of patricide.

Happily Married

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January 25, 1985

Well, SE's deadline is rushing in on me so I'm going to have to make this short. The last issue had so many interesting letters...wish I had the time to comment on each one. All the articles in #6 were good. Judi Grove's report on her exciting adventures while she was Harrison Hunting was fun. And my thanks to Ann Worthington for the report on her adventures with Dr. Fantasy. Reading about this "film for all time" was one of the high points of the issue. I'd love to be able to see it and I'm jealous of all you lucky stiffs at WorldCon who did get to see it! I had heard about this blooper reel from friends but never in such detail before. Thanks, Ann! Liz Sharpe's article was great...held together with good, sound logic and supported by many solid on-screen examples. This is probably the best article about the SW saga that I've ever read. My compliments to the author...and I hope she'll contribute more articles in the future.

Laura Virgil: You deserve some kind of award for your great suggestion for a Table of

Contents for letters. So glad Our Leader adopted it. It's a big help. Enjoyed your letter. Especially liked your idea that Leia and Luke were mind blocked with forced amnesia as a protective measure. Seems logical to me. I'd like to read some fanfic that deals with this.

Sally Syrjala: While I do believe that the Jedi have many mind powers, I think there are limits to those powers. I don't like to think of them as being as powerful as the Organians. For one thing, as someone pointed out in an earlier issue, it makes them boring from a writer's or a reader's point of view.

Mary Urhausen: Hi, Mary! Uh...surely you weren't talking about little ole me and my friend, Carole Regine? We were talking about this subject a long time ago in SE but neither of us have ever said anything like "married equals dead" or "it will never work." And we're not "bitter divorcees, or frustrated singles"...one of us is happily married and one is happily single. In those long ago remarks, we weren't talking about marriage in general...we were talking about a possibility for one particular character. All we said was that there might be some compromises in their future. I think any long-term relationship will call for a few compromises now and then.

I really enjoyed your remarks about Lucas. Bravo for you. I think he's a Swell Guy and I'm glad that he gave us all this Neat Stuff to enrich our lives.

Marlene Karkoska: I loved your entire letter. It was GREAT!

Michelle Malkin: Yeah, I can see your point about Anakin's state of mind. Still, I do believe that falling to Darkness has to be a conscious, freely-made choice. But that's just my own view of it all.

Carol Peters: My thanks to you and everyone else who has passed along info on the next SW film. I'm DESPERATE for information...I hope everyone will pass along anything they hear.

Carole Regine: You're right...we have spent a lot of time discussing All The Little Details of the saga in our private letters. That's one of the great things about these films...they are crammed full of fascinating

things. I loved your remark to Bev Clark. What a neat way to put it...and how true!

Well, I gotta get this into the hands of the postal authorities or I'll never make the deadline. Cheree, sorry to hear that you were so ill. I hope you're feeling better now. I'm glad the letters have lightened up some and very glad that you have decided to keep this Enclave in business.

Too Many Plugs

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January 19, 1985

Cheree: Hooray for you for deciding to stick with it! Of all my letterzines, SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is the most expensive, but it also give you the most for your money. Most letterzines I can peruse in half an hour; it takes days to wade through an issue of SE!

Barbara Tonnison: You are so right about Lucas ignoring his adult audience. Evidence of this proclivity is his "Ewok Movie"; I challenge anyone to say they weren't severely disappointed with that project. Even taken strictly as kiddie fare, its quality was extremely low. Another thing that makes me feel that both Lucas and Spielberg are selling out is their growing obsession with creatures and special effects. Lucas has stated that he would love to make a movie featuring no humans at all (why does he hate people so much?). Well, such a movie has already been made--by Jim Henson [THE DARK CRYSTAL], whom I love and consider to be a far greater genius than Lucas. And now Lucas is encroaching on Muppet territory: he and Henson plan to make a film together. I suppose it was inevitable.

I also have a gripe about the blatant commercialism of Lucasfilm. First of all, there is that disgusting OSWFC newsletter, which is nothing but ads, promotions and self-aggrandizement. Even worse are those TV "specials" which Lucasfilm has taken to airing to coincide

with the release of each motion picture. I didn't mind the one on special effects, which tied in to "Empire"; that was kind of interesting. Then they made one on stuntmen, which curiously enough spent 75% of the time talking about "Raiders." It gets worse; they next made one about "Famous Hollywood Monsters", just to lure people into seeing "Jedi." And the latest one was the flimsiest pretext of all: "Heroes and Sidekicks". They were trying to dream up any excuse at all for an occasion to brag on "Indiana Jones". These are not documentaries; they are hour-long commercials. And they are redundant as well, since there is always a "Making of..." film for the fans interested in peeking behind the scenes, and these real documentaries are aired on cable or PBS, where commercial considerations are not the primary goal.

Sandra Necchi: Very good points you made about "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter," and "the victors get the privilege of telling the story." I think the rebel's viewpoint is why I was attracted to "v", and it's also one reason I was disappointed in the SW saga: we weren't shown enough of the realities of Alliance vs. Empire.

Jeanine Hennig: Such a fun letter! Your ebullience in print makes me want to meet you in person. Okay, so maybe you are one of those lucky people who receives a dozen letters a day. I'm not suggesting you go broke over postage. Your solution of answering reader comments within the LoC pages of your zine is perfectly acceptable. All I'm saying is that every letter-writer deserves some sort of acknowledgement--be it by subspace message or smoke signals--to be made to feel that her opinion counts.

Tim Blaes: God, I wish I had your imagination! And thanks, Cheree, for pointing out the parallels between the SW saga and "v". Maybe I can work them into that cross-universe story that Tim's been begging for. Back to you, Tim: I'm glad you reminded everyone that Lucas "didn't do it all by himself, you know." There's no getting around the fact that the SW films, probably more than any other movie, were art by committee--and as such can never be completely cohesive. When

it comes to big-budget sf movies, you can forget about the auteur theory.

Marlene Karkoska: Very interesting idea about the Jedi being "certified" once they've completed their training. The public could trust a Jedi because he is "guaranteed" not to fall to the Dark Side. I see parallels in other sf universes; for example, in Robert Heinlein's STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, there are some women who are "true witnesses", and when they are wearing the costume of their profession, they can be trusted absolutely to report objectively on everything they see. In DUNE, physicians at the Suk Medical School must undergo Imperial Conditioning, which prevents them from ever taking a human life; these people are identified by a diamond tattoo in the center of their forehead. I suppose that the lightsaber would be the Jedi's identifying mark; it would be understood that anyone carrying such a weapon could be counted upon to uphold peace and justice.

Melody Corbett: Luke's inability to see while wearing the stormtrooper helmet had nothing whatever to do with Force-use. Luke is shorter than Han; his uniform didn't fit right, so his eyes weren't in the right place for the viewing-holes. I believe they made reference to this on the radio series.

Also, Melody, you were wondering if Harlan Ellison had published a review of "Jedi" anywhere. Since I have a nodding acquaintance with Ellison, I decided to go straight to the source and call him. No, he said, he has never done a review of it, but he added, "I didn't think much of it." I couldn't get him to elaborate on that, because he was about to step into the shower (I imagined him standing there holding the phone with no clothes on!). Anyway, I feel deprived as you do in not having an opportunity to read his opinion. I thought his review of the first STAR TREK movie in STARLOG a few years ago was right on target (on the other hand, he was one of the few reviewers who didn't pan DUNE, so you can never predict what he's going to think).

Did anyone see Norman Spinrad's "Stayin' Alive" column in the Dec. 84 LOCUS? At the L.A.

Worldcon, he noticed thousands of people camped out around the block, and he thought, wow, there sure are a lot of people waiting to see the Hugo ceremony. But no, they were waiting for the SW marathon, which started four hours later. Why, when there was plenty of available seating, were they spending four hours in line and missing the Hugos? he wondered. "Because" he was told, "Star Wars fans like to wait on line. They consider it part of the experience." Spinrad followed this anecdote with an excellent essay lamenting the changing purpose of the WorldCon: how it has taken on a circus-like atmosphere; how a love for sf literature is no longer a unifying force among the attendees; how the giving of the Hugos, sf's top award, is no longer the highlight of the convention. Spinrad's column is well worth reading.

Finally, I have a little question to throw out: Doesn't anyone ever fall to the Light Side? If an Imperial were to defect and go over to serve on the "good" side, from the viewpoint of someone like Vader is must look like a fall from the Dark Side. Why do we seem to see the two as a hierarchy, with the Light above the Dark, just as fundamentalists believe Heaven is up in the clouds and Hell is somewhere under the ground. Could the two sides be reversed, "from a certain point of view?"

Droid Torture

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January 22, 1985

Ah, well, the deadline is fast approaching, but I wanted to read SE through twice before I sat down to LoC. Another fine and thought-filled issue. First, I was glad to see so many people respond favorably in regard to the "nastiness" issue. Maybe now that it has been aired we can get down to business and forget all this silly bickering.

Judi: A big thank you for your interesting and detailed

article on HF and WITNESS filming (loved the word play in the title, too). You're very fortunate to have had this wonderful experience, and thanks for sharing it with the rest of us. What a nice guy Ford appears to be and he has said we may not like him if we got to know him. I suspect, though, that he is a very fine and caring man, which is proved by Judi's impressions of him.

Liz Sharpe: Your article on torture is obviously well-written and intelligent, but didn't shed any more light on the subject for me--maybe because I've never had any problems believing in that particular scene. Liz did bring up one valuable point--that of showing Jabba torturing droids as opposed to torturing live people to get the same points across as to Jabba's nature. I can just hear what the uproar would be/have been if humans were used instead of droids. Everyone would be screaming TOD--the same criticisms/arguments we've heard regarding the violence in TOD. Which brings me to Sally Syrjala's LoC--I am in total agreement with her last paragraph about TOD. The Indy Jones films are pure entertainment and escapism. I feel all the analysis takes away from what these films are supposed to be. Can't they be enjoyed for what they are there for--the sheer fun of it? SW on the other hand is added to by analysis and overanalysis--half the fun is digging deeper into the films to try to see and guess at what isn't shown on the screen, or the reasons behind why what is on the screen is there. Even though, like Sally Smith mentioned, we probably won't fully understand some of the events until all six parts are complete (if ever). The saga can be likened to a puzzle in that respect--we can't see the complete picture until all pieces are in place, maybe we think we can but then the finished picture is always somewhat different from what we envisioned.

Jean Stevenson: Thanks for pointing out some of the visual symbols in ROTJ. So many times and viewings these pass right by me, until someone who understands and sees things more clearly than me mentions them. Then I'll say, "Oh, yes! That's right--it fits!"

Tim Blaes: Always love your

interesting LoCs. As to "V", I somewhat enjoyed the two mini-series. Haven't had a chance to watch the series regularly (bad night), but the few times I have watched I've had a very bad feeling about it. Wonder how long it will last?

Bev Clark: Very informative LoC. Thanks for including the list of possible sources for SW. One of these days I'm going to finish delving into them, or at least give it a try.

Maggie Nowakowska: Very informative LoC, also. I am in agreement with you on most counts. Mainly, your feelings on Leia mirror mine exactly. I've had thoughts that Luke's potential for turning to the dark isn't as strong as Leia's. She's probably the one we should be concerned about. After all, she has the Force potential (probably little or no training), the same tendencies toward impulsiveness and impatience/temperament as her brother and father (must be a Skywalker trait), and to top it all off, she is a strong power wielder. One point of ROTJ that keeps haunting me is when Vader tells/threatens Luke, "If you will not turn...perhaps she will." I know this was meant to get Luke's anger up enough to fight, but somehow I felt that it could be viewed as a premonition, too. I can easily picture the scene Maggie suggests of Leia waking up one morning (despite from a night with Han), frustrated with her lack of thrill of power, then scaling the political ladder to the top using any means she can. What a great story that would make--love those darkside Leia stories--keep 'em coming.



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Harrison Ford Article: We enjoyed this immensely. We know our reactions would have been the same as Judi's. Please print her address so we all can share in her photos. (Barb) A friend of mine went to a special screening of WITNESS in LA and was sitting only a few seats away from HF. Despite that, she managed to pull herself together and watch the film. My cousin now works for Channel 16 serving Lancaster/Lebanon. Where was he when I needed him?

Teleology of Torture: It was an interesting article and very timely. There's a new Saturday cartoon series called DROIDS starring 3PO and R2 coming up shortly. It's rather interesting that the producers decided to use these two as a focus, over the main characters, for children to view. (Barb) My reaction to the torture scene at Jabba's was "figures."

Sharon Saye: It's not who your relatives are/were, it's who you are/were that counts. It was probably unscrupulous politicians, not the Jedi, that screwed up the Old Republic in the first place; leaving it ripe for Palpatine.

Why all the Luke-as-Dark Lord stories now? Good question. (Barb) I find them interesting, though not necessarily enjoyable.

Mary Keever: (Barb) I'm collecting the SW action figures. They're adorable, I want an Ewok! I also have the Falcon, but she's crippled, having lost her front landing gear. (Pam) I have both the Falcon and the Imperial Shuttle. ((Ed: I have the Imperial TIE Interceptor, a small metal die-cast Falcon, the 15" Darth Vader doll, the stuffed Chewbacca and several action figures! What I'm really after is all the large-size dolls that were only manufactured the first year, before they scaled them down to the action figures.))

Carol Peters: What some readers are questioning is the military progression of rank. A commander ranks below a captain, major, colonel, and a general. The problem is stemming from

whether you believe Luke is still formally ranked or is now working as an independent among the ranks.

Michelle Malkin: You put forward some good ideas on the theory of Han being blind. We did not agree with the theory because we did not feel that the evidence was there, but "what if".

A zine with nothing but Dark Side stories? Aaargh!! Depression city!

Sandra Necchi: Fraternal twins need not have obvious similarities. According to the Urdang Dictionary of Current Medical Terms (Pam--something no Anthropology student would be caught dead without) it states:

"Fraternal (or dizygotic) twins are the result of the simultaneous fertilization of (two) egg cells; they may be of different sexes and are no more alike than ordinary siblings."

The only requirement is that they have the same mother and father, and be born within the same time span of each other that identical twins are. And before anybody asks, no, offspring that are conceived simultaneously by two different fathers (fertilization of two egg cells at the same time in the same woman) are half siblings, not fraternal twins.

(Pam) Please, before anyone gets into a raging argument over this issue, make sure that you know the difference between the definitions of fraternal, identical, and half-sibling, because I'll warn you now, any reader out there who is a medical trainee or a medical anthropologist will tear your arguments apart if they're not accurate.

(Barb) I knew I shouldn't have gone into politics. Sorry, but I do not listen to everything my government tells me, far from it. I think I have a very healthy skepticism in that regard. Also, I think I take a quite realistic view of the world.

I agree that things happen in war that can't be avoided. But, if you consistently lower yourselves to your enemies' level, you soon become no different from him, and then you are in big trouble. My feelings about the Alliance remain the same.

I agree that "terrorist" has been misused (but then so has "freedom fighter"). However,

that doesn't mean that it has no legitimate applications. If a person's sole purpose in life is the killing of innocent people, whatever his cause (and some don't even have that to fall back on), then I would call that person a terrorist.

(Pam) Did anyone else see the interview of a Beruit "freedom fighter" about a month ago? He stated outright that the only thing he knew was war and conflict. He said he didn't know what he'd do if the conflict ended tomorrow, the only skill he had was that of a hit and run specialist. He lived and breathed weapons and ambushes.

(Barb) That's all I have to say really, except that I think you are mistaken about Han Solo's behavior and motivations in TESB.

Debbie Gilbert: Apparently NPR is on too tight of a budget to produce ROTJ as a radio series. If it's to be done it will have to be through an independent source. Write your Congressbeings. ((Ed's note: Also, all you people out there, don't just sit back and watch/listen to your local PBS/NPR stations--become a member and support them! Government and corporate grants go only so far--they really do depend on the public for a lot of their budget.))

Bev Clark: The character profiles in "In a Faraway Galaxy" were wonderful. They made so much sense.

Tim Blaes: (Pam) OK, I've now seen the first half of the first part of "V" (the 2nd half aired at 11:30 that same night, not good if your alarm goes off at 6:00 a.m.) and all of the 2nd part again. Now I can't remember who brought up the idea that not enough emphasis was placed on the idea of the police state in the 2nd part, but I think it would have been a bit too much. The 1st part established that idea as part of the story base, no need to run it to death. I still believe Elizabeth's saving the day could have been handled better. Her sparkles just didn't do it. Her brother, well, after having seen the series, he's just a miniature version of the adult reptiles. They're not exactly handsome by human standards. Besides, it's been established, straight from Diana's mouth, that Robin is a one-in-a-million subject for genetic tampering to make a mating viable. We won't be seeing 50

million star children from this series. I found the novel to be a good source for fill-in material.

Mary Urhausen: Please add two more Luke/Han fans to your list. And, thank you for your remarks in support of Han and Leia. We are two singles who wish them a long and happy life together. By the way, Laura Thomas' stories were my favorites in WC#1. ((Ed: Aarrgh, Mary! I just realized that the initials of your zine are too appropriate for words--WOOKIEE COMMODE...WC.))

Marlene Karkoska: Luke's test was probably out of the ordinary, but then his training was too, considerably speeded up. He didn't have years and years to practice and learn. Considering that, he did remarkably well. Maybe Vader was lost to the Dark after he had completed his training, but before his actual test.

There really is no evidence Luke was under Han's command. He may have been loosely attached to the Alliance military at that point in his status as a Jedi. As to Luke as Jedi, he had all the skills necessary upon his return to Dagobah, and was well on his way in terms of maturity already. Yoda undoubtedly sensed this.

Han is much more patient than he used to be, less inclined to act impulsively. Witness his behavior toward Leia on the walkway, the old Han would have stormed off in a huff. He and 3PO have a real personality clash, but it is strictly a war of words. Also, remember he let Luke dissuade him from aggressive action during the encounter with the Ewoks, also not likely some years ago. Now, he may not be trained as a Jedi, but he could learn to use the Force to a greater degree. Han's a nice guy, really!

This whole flap over TOD is a tempest in a teapot.

Cheree: Maybe Anakin started his training before the wars and afterward was too full of himself to accept the discipline necessary to complete it. And thanks for the Index; now it's a flip, instead of a search for letter!

Fly Casual!

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January 26, 1985

First, I would like to make belated comments on two topics in #5 which sheer procrastination kept me from answering in time for #6.

As a rabid "Beaver" aficionado, I think it is unlikely that Harrison Ford ever appeared on the program. According to my sources, LEAVE IT TO BEAVER was cancelled at the end of the 1962-63 season, and Ford did not arrive in Hollywood until the summer of 1964. However, many other actors who later made a name for themselves can be spotted in the reruns. Little "Timmy" Matheson plays a friend of Beaver's in one of the early episodes. (No, he didn't offer to show June his "cucumber".) Both Ryan O'Neal and Barbara Parkins appear. And in the infamous "Violet Kisses Beaver" episode, the part of Gwendolyn (Mrs. Fred) Rutherford is played by none other than Majel Barrett. At last I understand the reason behind Mr. Spock's stubborn lack of interest in Nurse Chapel--any woman who could produce an offspring like Lumpy Rutherford would be an extremely illogical choice for marriage.

On the subject of the financial responsibility of zine editors, I tend to take a middle ground. From professional outfits like my book clubs or the Spiegel Catalogue, I expect to get what I ordered or my money refunded--no excuses. But I wouldn't put fanzines in a strictly professional category. If an editor can give me a sufficiently good explanation for her inability to deliver--the printer took all the deposit money and absconded to Venezuela, or the house burned down with all her worldly goods, the cat, and the freshly collated zines in it--then I certainly would be content to forget about my five or ten dollars rather than to force a fellow fan into financial ruin. I'm sure I'm not alone in this feeling.

Now, on to #6: I really enjoyed the articles, especially Judi Grove's account of her adventures during the shooting of WITNESS. But what a disappointment to learn that HF still smokes. Oh, Harry, say it isn't so!

There's so much of interest to comment on in the letters, but I'll have mercy on Cheree's aching fingers and restrain myself to one or two topics.

Sandra Necchi: Having Luke and Leia be merely half-siblings wouldn't necessarily mean that they could not also be twins. All that would be necessary is that the late Mrs. S. would have had to have had intercourse with two different men within the short, critical time period. It has happened in real life--rarely, to be sure, because of the limitations of human biology and sexual mores.

I agree with you, though, in finding the "twins" idea hard to swallow for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that the ANH script describes Luke as being two years older than Leia. No wonder their mother looked "sad" and died young. A labor that lasted two years must have been traumatic, to say the least.

I must disagree with you that the term "terrorist" is purely one of propaganda. True, war often necessitates acts that are morally questionable--dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a good example. But I submit that there is a difference between conventional and guerilla warfare tactics such as destroying a munitions factory, blowing up a bridge, or even, God forbid, assassinating a key government leader, and acts of terrorism (as least as I define them) such as setting off a bomb in a crowded pub, hiring hit men to open fire in a Tel Aviv airport terminal, and kidnapping a teenage girl and threatening to kill her unless a compatriot is released from prison. All of the above might involve loss of civilian life, but the former at least have strategic purpose, while the latter was merely emotional blackmail--do things our way, or we will take revenge on innocent third parties. Leaving the justice of the individual causes aside, I don't need to be influenced by what my government tells me; the acts speak for themselves.

Why not start a political discussion in a letterzine? (As long as we keep things civil, of course.) SF has always been used as a means of examining moral issues and problems in our own society. That goes for SW fiction as well. It certainly

could be a fascinating basis for a story: what would the Alliance do if faced with an agonizing moral decision akin to that of dropping the bomb on Hiroshima? And how would they deal with an overzealous member committing acts that go beyond the pale?

((Editor's note: Why not discuss politics (or religion, for that matter) in a letterzine? Because Your Editor is not a well person, gentlebeings. Her hair positively curls at the very thought of getting another row going such as is just starting to be settled. Having come within a hair's-breadth of calling it quits because things got out of hand, I would really prefer it if such volatile subjects were largely confined to private correspondence.))

Jedi & The Force

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January 9, 1985

I found the latest issue of SE very interesting...with the exception of the picture of Annie Wortham with her--uh--hat (which she claims to have gotten at the circus one weekend in Dallas); the layout is better than ever. By the way, no amount of bribes could entice the circus to keep Annie. What most people don't know is that her antennae are real; I've personally seen them. She is actually the illegitimate love child of Martin the Martian.

Frankly, Cheree, I'm quite surprised at your sudden tendency to hog the show. You neglected (in the telling of your elbow's starring role with Michael York) to mention that I was featured as an indistinguishable red blur in THREE establishing shots with him in the same classic movie! Hmph, and so there!

Tim Blaes: Well, my experiences in ST fandom were not good ones. I didn't LoC letterzines or zines (that I can remember), but nevertheless suffered the wrath of a lot of strange peo-

ple. My comments were aimed at my situation. Consider yourself very lucky if you haven't experienced it first-hand in ST (or any other) fandom. Cheree went through it with me and knows exactly what I'm talking about. We both reached our saturation points and felt that enough was enough. Hope you never get hit by it the way we were.

On another note, Tim, when I was in film school, there was a guy who was making a film called KILLER DILLO, about a rampaging giant man-eating armadillo who takes revenge on all Texans who ever mowed down one of its kin on our highways (this was long before the days of the Lone Star Beer giant armadillo commercials, if you're familiar with them). Alas, he dropped out before finishing that project. He DID, however, make a spoof of Japanese horror movies and filmed a trailer for GODZILLA VS. THE ROMULAKS (remember that one, Cheree?). ((Ed: How could I forget it?)) I'd give a lot to have a work print of that one! It was so bad (intentionally) it was good. The director used Japanese students in the roles, along with the token American; the special effects were akin to those in HARDWARE WARS--hand-scratched onto the emulsion of each frame --and Godzilla himself was a hand-puppet lurking through trees (or, rather, azalea bushes). It was wonderfully hilarious; you'd have loved it. There ain't nothing like student film festivals!

B.J. Evans & Michelle Malkin: Kudos to you both! I've often wondered why so many can't accept Han just as he was originally presented in ANH--as a mercenary space pirate and not a user of the Force. Why does he have to be? Part of the inherent appeal and romance of the Han character is that he doesn't NEED the Force "gimmicks" to get along in his universe--he has his on inimitable style and talents (no comments there, Martie!) which suffice him just fine. The fact that he CAN make it through near-death brushes by the skin of his teeth makes him that much more interesting. It's the differences between Han and Luke and their individual ways of dealing with the same situation that compliment each other so well. What's the purpose of

having two characters if they're exactly the same? Even identical twins aren't wholly identical. Why is the "having" of the Force seemingly equated to character and worth? Who said that the Jedi of the Old Republic were the absolute leaders in society anyway? My impression was that they were a very important PART of the Old Republic, but that not everyone was a Jedi and that each individual played their own important role in the scheme of things.

In ANH, Ben told Luke that the Force was in everyone. That doesn't necessarily mean that everyone has the power or knows how to use it, or is meant to; it might mean that each person has different levels (not social class/caste positions); some might actually be almost non-existent and serve another function and the Jedi knights were the ones in whom the brightest Force talents were showcased. There are those who can sing but not dance and paint and vice versa, ad infinitum. There are those who can't do any of that, but that doesn't mean they're untalented. (For instance, the ability to take apart and put back together an engine without a blueprint is a mind-boggling talent, in my opinion.) It also does not make them lesser people for their lack of these talents. Therefore, if Han isn't a Force-user (or even Force-sensitive) it doesn't make him less of a man than Luke. Because Luke has a few of what so many consider "weaknesses" in his transitory, learning stages to becoming a full Jedi, it doesn't make him less of a man. Why can't Han and Luke be accepted simply as two intelligent, talented men who compliment each other but who are vastly diverse? (I wonder if the problem for those particular Han fans is that most of them also seem to view Luke as the "fallen angel"; if Luke is SO awful, then what does that make Han, who was originally touted as the mercenary space pirate?)

This makes Jenni's (Hennig) comments on the Jedi as a race very tenable to me, and something I hadn't really considered before. Out of curiosity, Jenni, are you speaking in more spiritual aspects of being of one race than actual genetics? I realize that all humans are of one species, and yet there are

black, white, brown, etc., skin pigmentations. But, what about Yoda? Do you mean a universal genetic inheritance--regardless of species? If this is the case, then we've only seen one example of Jedi because a race indicates an entire society of individuals with similar habits, characteristics and/or interests. The ones we've seen have all been Jedi knights. Non-knight's would, under this assumption, apply their Force-talents elsewhere, such as in being Jedi mechanics, healers, teachers, computer operators, housepersons, businesspersons, etc., etc. Am I off-base here, Jenni, or is that the way you're seeing it (that's the way I interpret your CATALYST series, anyway). Anyone else care to comment on this?

I'm sorry to read that people are so distraught by the "deifications" of Han and/or Luke to that point that they're actually beginning to detest the characters. I guess that's an eventuality of having something forced on you continually as "fact" rather than "possibility". (I could tell you stories about a Dallas Cowboys FANATIC I knew ten years ago... well, suffice to say, because of her, I still derive a sadistic sort of glee when they lose a game.) I'm mostly a Han-fan, but I have to admit all the hoopla flying about "bad boy Luke" has really made me take a second look. I've never liked a lily-white hero; I like them a little tinged. Of course, constant association with the nefarious Jenni Hennig and her smutty writing makes Luke look more and more interesting (if you know what I mean, and I think you do). Never expected to hear that from me, did you, Jenni?

I wonder if we're not all missing something here. As has been stated countless times, we have no basis for what we extrapolate a Jedi is/should be. As I see it, neither did Luke. Yoda, Ben & Anakin are all of a previous generation of Jedi. I'd guess that their methods might be somewhat outdated as well. Wouldn't Luke have to really "hunt-and-peck" learn? Yoda taught him basics, but it was left to Luke to implement his knowledge. When you teach a child to walk, there will be a lot of falling on his bottom before he ever gets it right.

Doesn't Luke have the right to make mistakes? He doesn't have any previous real knowledge of the Jedi to draw from and apparent damned little contact with his ethereal friends. Even Luke originally believed Obi Wan to be a legend. This signifies to me the possibility that there may not have been any recorded Jedi history, or that it'd been destroyed by the Empire and denounced as propaganda. Luke, because of his limited training, uses the Force, trusts his feelings and does a lot of guessing concerning how to handle himself in situations (just like in ST, the Vulcans' controlling of emotion is a LEARNED behavior, not inbred). If he makes a big, bad mistake, does that mean that he's fallen from the good side? Let's face it, any given clergyman who has led a good, pure and chaste life, and is totally above reproach, is as capable of killing a child who runs out into traffic as the rest of us. But does that mean he's fallen from the grace of his beliefs? It doesn't even mean he's necessarily made a mistake, especially if the child was hidden from view until the exact moment of impact. Luke is still learning. How many of us can really say we know everything there is to know about one single subject? Luke's got a lot to learn about an infinite abstract concept that he knew virtually nothing of until quite recently in his life. What worked for a Jedi a hundred years ago might not be practical for "today". Certainly, just as our technology outdates us almost daily, I'd think the technology of Luke's universe and time could do no less. This is not to say that the old Jedi methods could not be adapted and revised to work to Luke's advantage. A lightsaber might NOT have been practical in every instance for him and he was not above using a blaster when necessary. Why isn't Luke given an even chance? It's fine for Han to use a lightsaber and immediately be heralded as THE lost Jedi, but if Luke uses a blaster, then he's blaspheming his Jedi heritage! It simply doesn't seem fair, and it doesn't make sense. What's good for the goose...

Melody Corbett: I wonder if each stormtrooper outfit was custom-made for its individual wearer. If this is the case,

it explains why Luke couldn't see well with that helmet--it simply didn't fit ("...aren't you a little short for a stormtrooper?").

I don't quite see the future of the SW universe as being stable or tranquil. The new, improved Death Star was destroyed, along with the "bad guys", but there are still a lot of battles to win. There will undoubtedly be a lot of fringe governors--like Tarkin--who are more than willing to step into Vader's and the Emperor's shoes. The Rebels still have a long road ahead of them.

Maggie Nowakowska brought up some interesting questions concerning Leia's future. I also have trouble imagining Leia happily raising little "Corell Organian Sith Jedi Skywalkers" (or whatever the heck they'd be) and living happily ever after with Han. She was raised a politician--and let's not forget, a rebel--regardless of her genetic heritage. What will she do with it? Perhaps she will be a threat to Mon Mothma, as Maggie suggested, in that her experience has been right in the thick of the battle, not sitting safely behind the laser cannons knitting little blue and pink Jedi afghans. As with all new governments, there is likely to be dissention until the new leaders (whoever they might be) are settled in. Up until now, it's all been hide-and-seek, and there was no real promise of tomorrow. That may still hold true. As stated in the previous paragraph, there will be the "hangers-on" who would like the riches of the Empire returned and will undoubtedly work towards those ends. I wonder if the galaxies wouldn't be full of assassins with death markers for many of the rebel leaders. Not only that, but a lot of Empirical leaders might claim false allegiance to the new government with aspirations to eventually take that over as well and start their own version of the Empire. There will be a lot of paranoid rebels shooting around the stars for a LONG time to come.

Marlene Karkoska: Concerning deathbed confessions, like you, I believe it's possible. A recent serial murderer (at his own admission, of over 350 women) named Henry Lee Lucas has allegedly had quite a startling religious conversion. He is

working hand-in-hand with the police to find the bodies and solve the mysteries (and is doing so quite successfully). Certainly, it doesn't excuse his heinous crimes, but perhaps he is paying some personal penance. ((Ed: It should be noted that Henry Lee Lucas has been already been tried and convicted in a score of these crimes and has received the death sentence and life imprisonments several times over. His conversion has not released him from paying for his crimes.)) A long-time friend of my family who is a clergyman once told me he "never saw an atheist die". If it's a sincere conversion, does it really matter that it's last ditch? Considering your optimistic reasonings for Vader's change-over, I think they're very, very plausible (this doesn't change my original reasoning for not liking Vader's conversion). Like you said, anything's possible!

Bev Clark: The translation of Leia Aquilae is quite interesting, especially since an eagle is also a skywalker of sorts! I'd heard the Japanese "Han-suru"/"-Soro" translations before, and can't help but wonder if that wasn't intentional on GL's part. Did you consider CITIZEN KANE in your list of sources, if for nothing else but the black and white symbolism in the saga, and the overall visual look? Also Sikh theology, with it's rejection of the caste system, and perhaps, on a much broader basis, the Shiite theology for the Jedi knight order. (Could be all very far-fetched, but it occurred to me they could apply.)

I recently found something else you might be interested to research, Bev. I came across a reference to the word "millennium" when I was looking for something else entirely, in which it was listed, in synonym form, right in the middle of other phrases and words some of which follow: flight of fancy; conceit; myth; dream; vision; chimera; chimerical; romance; castles in the air; Utopia; stretch of the imagination; pipedream; imaginer; idealist; romanticist; visionary; romancer; dreamer; enthusiast; rainbow-chaser; tilter at windmills; high-flown; in the clouds; flighty; quixotic; et al. I cross-referenced a few of these, and "chimera", for

instance, refers to "an imaginary monster compounded of incongruous parts; an unrealizable dream". "Chimerical" refers to "existing only as the product of unrestrained imagination; fantastically visionary or improbable; inclined to fantastic schemes or projects". Boy, if that doesn't sound like Han Solo and his ship, I don't know what does! Perhaps in the search for the meaning of MILLENNIUM FALCON this has been overlooked (at least I haven't seen it mentioned before) in favor of the numerical significance. Upon doing a bit of research into falcons and falconing (and I do mean a very little), I found reference to "any of various hawks...with long wings, dark eyes, and a V-shaped projection on the upper mandible which is accommodated by a notch in the lower mandible". (Almost sounds like a description of the ship.) My impression, from the limited information at hand, is that falconers use, more specifically, peregrine females because of their gentler nature. Going from there, the word "peregrine" is also used as an adjective, meaning "having a tendency to wander". To take it further, however, another kind of falcon is a light cannon. Have anything to add, Bev? Anyone? I'm interested! Sure would be nice if GL would compile a dictionary with answers to all this, but, then, there wouldn't be much fun for us, would there?

I haven't kept really active in fandom in the past several years, so I ask this question in hopes I won't get blasted from all quarters as incredibly redundant if it's been asked before but has it occurred to anyone other than myself to wonder why Kenobi had two names? If it was in the novelization of ANH, I don't remember (read it in '77 and not since). Is "Obi Wan" a form of Jedi military address, title or rank? A nickname? Or is it a Jedi-given name? (I don't mean "given name" in the sense of Tom, Dick or Harry, but rather as a sign of attainment of Jedi warrior stature; something like monks and nuns who choose a name other than the name given them at birth.) If so, why doesn't Luke have one (unless there's no one to endow him thusly)? Ben was a general, but I tend to think that title was given to him by the Republican hier-

archy. Maybe you can shed some light for me on this, Bev, since you're also interested in the names in the saga? I'd appreciate it. I know that in ancient Japan "obi" was a belt the Samurai warriors wore in battle, but that's as far as I've had time to take it.

Thanks again for another great issue, Cheree!

Buddhism in SW

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Hello there. Enjoyed issue no. 6 very much. The day with Harrison Ford was fun reading. Yummy...and lucky Judi! Liz Sharpe's article, "A Teleology of Torture" was excellent and I agreed with it in total. I thought it was very clever of Lucas to use the Droid torture to get his message across. The details in analysis on this subject in the article really makes one think about it for a long time after the reading. Very good for the conscience I think.

Sandra Necchi's reviews always make me perk up because she really sinks her teeth into a zine/story and gives a true opinion and analysis without prettying it up. AND without shying away from criticism too. Too many reviewers are afraid of giving REAL analysis or criticism. A shame really. Good constructive criticism helps, not hinders.

Now onto the letters:

Laura R. Virgil: Meant to get back to you much earlier on it but I did not mean anything personal by my comments on Dr. Who (Tom Baker, that is). I just think too many people did not consider what Lucas had in mind with the ending and got a little too heavy with their own opinions on it by implying his interpretation was wrong. One may not like it, but it stands as a valid one that makes sense. I don't care either, if Mr. Baker has a zillion PhD's and has studied as a Monk in the

mountains for 10 earlier life times (reincarnation is my bag!); my own knowledge is no less valuable (neither is yours). Anyway, a letterzine is a place for debating. I LIKE to debate points of view. I really don't think we should chop each others head off over this should we? A bit silly.

I agree with you about Han. I don't think he is an active Force-user, or he'd probably be a Jedi at the end of ROTJ. If everything IS the Force, then the potential for its use (well, one can say HAS the Force...depends on interpretation) can occur with everything that exists whether sentient or not. But as far as the films go, I don't see Han going Jedi (meaning Force-user because I see the name Jedi as synonymous with the term) but if it ever happened, he'd not be afraid of it. Your points are well taken about his actions.

Sally A. Syrjala: A good question that; how powerful are the Jedi and can they use the Force as easily as the Organians in "Errand of Mercy" [STAR TREK] used their powers? I don't think their power can compare because the Organians are evolved persons, who are energy sources, beyond the human realm. I think the Jedi are not incorporated in the energy sources in the same way. They are still people who are human. So I can't see them having the same capabilities.

I didn't like the second RAIDERS film. Too gory with small story and poor characterization. I think the racial aspect is the use of the Indian people. People have so many stereotyped ideas of people who are not like themselves and for someone of Lucas or Spielberg's importance (their films have mass appeal and great impact upon the public), I think they could have done a better job in portraying the Indian people, and their society in general.

Mary Keever: Yes, I received a letter from Shelley Swan, too. Strange indeed.

Sandra Necchi: Your letter left me stunned once more. You are so honest and open and so thoroughly refreshing because of it. Your letters are the highest point in the letterzine because you say what you have to say straight out. A toast to you, Sandra, for having guts and originality. Pinpointing

to Marcia Brin about her common use of stating her opinions as facts (others have also noted this) was welcomed. No one knows how Lucas originally intended SW's as interpretation, other than the simple facts shown by actions and words--just as they are, of his work. So who is Marcia to say she knows what is right or wrong by stating her own opinion as the correct interpretation? I think she owes an apology to all of us who she insults in this manner.

Regarding my article "Buddhism in Star Wars", and the separate Dark and Light powers, I think there are various ways and methods to interpret Dark and Light but all are aspects of the one, the Force. Dark as the fundamental darkness or Dark as emotions are very different aspects of the negative side. I know we tend to think of the negative aspect as BAD but that isn't so in reality. Negative means the opposite of something, not necessarily BAD. Light doesn't necessarily mean GOOD either. That is basic overall interpretation, general in explanation of the Force and its law of opposite powers. The other use of Light and Dark is good and evil which is an aspect of negative/positive in terms of defining death/birth. Death destroys and birth gives life. If one wishes to live in order to evolve then the Light, which represents birth, must sustain the Dark. For without death, birth is not possible. The two are the one. Talking about Light practices, it labels beings who use them as Lightside users. When I was discussing the possibility of Lightside users as separate from Darkside users, it does not mean the users were bad or good, merely using different practices, Darkside users, using the negative side and the Lightside users using the positive side of the Force. Each side would have to have both blended but one side controlling the other. As we see with the Emperor and Darth Vader, they did not control the Light within the Dark, therefore, creating an imbalance. Maybe Darth Vader originally thought he could, who knows? Luke is labeled a Lightside user but in reality he is not, he is just the Force user, balanced with Light and Dark. The Light is prominent because time-

wise life is evolving. (By the time of the Fall of the Republic, Dark and Light were labeled evil and good. But if the Jedi were themselves in anyway responsible for the Fall, or should I say they are anyway in a fashion because there is a division between Dark and Light and there shouldn't be, then they, too, were imbalanced. Therefore, the Light and Dark titles have a very different meaning than Light as positive or Dark as negative by the time we are viewing STAR WARS on screen.) Hope I didn't lose you there, Sandy?

Bev Clark: Thanks for the listing of sources Lucas used. Interesting. I had no idea GUNGA DIN or the FOUNDATION TRILOGY had any influence. Nor John Carter of Mars! ((Ed: I recently saw GUNGA DIN for the first time. Looked more like GUNGA DIN AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM, starring Cary Grant as Harrison Ford! A real hoot to watch!))

Have nothing else to say at this point, other than my zine PERFECT FUSION 1 has been delayed due to my typewriter breaking down. Also got at the last moment some terrific added material which I couldn't say no to. Hoping MediaWestCon for its debut.

Women Fen

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January 10, 1984

Received SE6 about a week ago and, rather than answer it right away, I decided to give myself awhile to cogitate. I was very glad to see this particular issue and am delighted that you will be continuing the zine. I have to admit to being fascinated by some of the letters in which fen just about begged you to not stop putting out SE, especially the ones from the people who were responsible for having caused the problem to begin with. Either these people just can't see the harm

they almost did (ending the best SW letterzine in current existence) or they finally realized their mistake. I hope it's the latter. Hindsight is better than blindsight.

Liz Sharpe's article on the concept of droid torture was very interesting. After being totally grossed out by this scene in ROTJ the first time I saw it, I started to think about it. In order for the droids to even feel pain, they have to have built in sensitivity and touch sensors. Such sensors may be necessary for certain jobs some droids might perform, but I got the definite feeling that the droids being tortured at Jabba's served only the purpose of Jabba's knowing that such a thing was going on. For another droid to perform such an action on a different droid and to have the torturer actually enjoy what he is doing involves a programming that is the very difficult to think about. It would take a very sick mind to deliberately make a sick droid.

Sharon Saye: One reason why not many people wrote about a fallen Luke after TESB may be that not many people even considered the idea, or if they did, rejected it as probably ridiculous. Of course, any idea may serve as a story idea, even if the writer doesn't agree with it herself. Most likely, as in my own case, the idea was brought up so much in letterzines after ROTJ that many writers considered it and decided to use it for alternate SW stories and vignettes.

Before I forget--as expected my question about why it was all right for Han to scream on the scanner grid but not Luke when he was being fried by the Emperor was not answered. I didn't think it would be. When the subject was originally brought up a year or so back, the idea being dealt with was pain. Luke was berated for not being able to withstand inhuman amounts of pain because he was a Jedi and, supposedly, able to control any and all pain. Then, when most fen objected to such an idea (everyone has to have some kind of pain limit, even Jedi!), the questioners changed their tactic. They started saying that it wasn't Luke's reaction to pain that was being questioned (it wasn't?), but the fact that he begged his father

for help. Their original protest against Luke's screaming in pain was mysteriously dropped like the hot potato it was. My response to their complaint at the time was why was it all right for Han to scream in pain but not Luke. It was never answered. It still hasn't been. I guess it never will be because it can't be. And denying the fact that the question was ever brought up will not change the fact that it was.

Mary Keever: Your letter interested me on several points. I pretty much agree with your response to Martie Benedict. Even more, I have a feeling that Darth Vader had already started thinking of some kind of change once he knew of Luke's existence. He wanted them to rule together as father and son in place of the Emperor and in order to bring some kind of order to a messed up galaxy. It makes me wonder if he originally worked for Palpatine (if that's who the Emperor is) in an attempt to right wrongs. Perhaps this desire was still buried in him in the part that was still Anakin. I also agree with you about Leia probably being an unconscious Force-user. In ANH when Leia was shooting across the abyss at a bunch of Stormtroopers, she missed every time. Then, she closed her eyes, took one last shot and BINGO--exit one stormtrooper. As to non-fen reaction to SW or even sf in general. I've been reading sf since I was able to read. For years I was embarrassed to even mention this. Science fiction and fantasy were not the kinds of fiction that anyone, especially girls, admitted to actually enjoying. It took me a long time to get over this self-insulting bias. A lot of the cure, in my own case, had to do with so many women becoming professional f&sf writers. From the looks of the book shelves in my local stores, I'd say that about 50% of current fantasy and science fiction is being written by women--some of whom started out as fen themselves. As to SW fandom, I tell people who smirk that they don't know what they are missing. I show pride in my interest. This usually leaves the smirker a bit stunned, so I take the chance to point out that media fandom is about the only literary fandom where people are helped to develop their natural

writing or art talents. This is something I also take pride in. If the smirker is still smirking, I figure to hell with her or him. They just want to make themselves feel big by making someone else feel little. But the ones whose smirks turn to a look of interest because they have been shown a new way to think about something make me feel even more proud for having stated my case out of pride rather than mumbling like I once did.

Carol Peters: You brought up a good point about the age of the actor who portrayed Anakin not having anything to do with the age of the person being portrayed. And not knowing Anakin's age to begin with really brings this point home. I remember watching the movie "Alexander Hamilton" in which actor George Arliss who looked about sixty played Hamilton in his early twenties! Now that was ridiculous because we knew how old the actor and Hamilton were both supposed to be. In Anakin's case, who knows?

Barbara Tennison: Your idea about Leia having always been an aware and trained Force-sensitive is a dandy one. I hope that someone does write it. It would be a definite twist on all the Han-as-hidden-Jedi stories. (In my universe all of the Big Three are Force-sensitive, but none of them really knows it [except Han who thinks of himself as an 'atrophied' esper] until after ANH for reasons I won't divulge.)

Sandra Necchi: As much as I enjoyed STIII, I do have to agree with you to a degree. The Klingons were extremely one-dimensional. Not a Kang or Kor in the bunch. Not even a Weasly Krass. In fact, the only Klingon who showed any promise at all (the surviving one, fortunately,) was the one who was yelled at for thinking of colonization rather than conquest. And even he ended up as the brunt of a 'joke.' As to its lack of ST's original enthusiasm--it's now the 1980's, and true enthusiasm is a rare commodity. The atmosphere is ultra-conservative and that means, fundamentalists' protests to the contrary, that the only thing being worshipped is money. The hell with people. Despite ST's message also to the contrary, some of this can't help but creep in. It's the times. I

don't believe that it will last, but then I'm a starry-eyed liberal optimist. By the way, did you ever notice how sexist the end of "Enterprise Incident" is? I keep hearing how this is a real pro-woman episode. No way! In fact, it's sexist from beginning to end. Playing up to Spock is one thing, but the RomCom is practically drooling all over him the second she sets eyes on him. One more comment (I know, Cheree, this is a SW letterzine; sorry). "My" ST is "Where No Man Has Gone Before" and "Errand of Mercy." Both are about the purest science fiction in the series and my personal favorites. Then again, I raised myself on Olaf Stapledon, so any show about a homo-superior or homo novae is bound to gain my interest. In fact, getting back to SW, the Jedi and other espers are what I'd consider homo-superior--the next step up the evolutionary ladder (see, Cheree, I knew I'd make a connection somewhere along the way.) No wonder I like SW so much!

Hmmm, I see that several people commented on Shelley Swan's letter. I got one of her missives last summer, too. I had a hand-drawn picture of a wild-eyed Luke complete with halo and angel's wings and a very strange 'poem' inside. I didn't write to her, but wonder if anyone who did ever got an answer. I didn't know whether to take the card as a joke or as a cry for help from a very lonely person.

Debbie Gilbert: I started watching "V" again simply because of the lovely presence of one Duncan Regehr. Now I'm told that he'll only be in three episodes. Sigh, well, it was good while it lasted. For a lizard, Charles has the most magnificent chest-mask I've ever seen. (Duncan Regehr is still my number one nominee to portray young Anakin and Darth Vader.) ((Ed: I second the nomination!))

Maggie Nowakowska: I beg to differ. The Millennium Falcon is definitely not the Other. The Space Slug is. Or is the dia noga...or the sarlaac? Hmmm, I'll need some time to ponder on this momentous subject. Wait! I've got it! It was Salacious Crumb!!! The way he was cackling all the time, he must have known something that no one else knew. And, can we be absolutely certain that he died in

that explosion? Think about that!

Jeaning Hennig: Why off Earth would Han teach the MF to say 'ain't' when he hardly ever used the word himself? Nyah! ...Sigh. Well, what more can I expect from a Lu-u-uke fan? Han's English (or Galactic or whatever the heck it was) was pristine and perfect, and don't you forget it. Hmph! (By the way, you and Cheree and Bev Lorenstein and I have to get together at MediaWest*Con. Mi-ghod, Han and Luke fen on each side! Whatever is the world coming to?)

Jean Stevenson: I didn't say the 'cooling' of friendships over disagreements of interpreting the SW saga, I said that friendships were actually ended. If you see Luke as evil and someone else disagrees with you, does that automatically make the other person evil? I know of one person who was told exactly that by a former friend. I do consider that sick. Hmmm, time again--my interpretation of Temple of Doom is inaccurate? My opinion differs from yours, therefore it is inaccurate? There's an algebraic equation in all this, but for the life of me I can't figure it out. But, in the meantime, thanks, Jean, for a new addition to the semantics game. One more thing: SW is a modern fairy-tale in which GL rewrote some of the rules, or so it seems. In this fairy-tale, the son doesn't have to kill the 'evil' father (or father figure) to take his place. In this case, the father who was once good becomes good again, and he dies willingly so that his son might live. I never got the impression that Luke was asking his father to sacrifice himself for him. My impression was that Luke was asking for his help for both their sakes. Luke had no idea that Anakin was going to divert the Emperor's 'death rays' onto himself and cause his own death. Then again, maybe that was Anakin's intent--to return to the Light Side and not have to live to face all the guilt for the evil he had done. It seems to me that Luke wanted Anakin alive, free and on the Light side once more, but he was powerless, in the end, to keep him alive in the face of Anakin's overpowering guilt.

Sandra Blodgett: A Good Mother and a Bad Mother in the

first SW trilogy? Now that really sounds fascinating. All kinds of mythic possibilities in such an idea (the good queen and the wicked witch who takes her place or tries to).

Elsie Bartok: I agree with you that the Jedi were probably some kind of police force (paramilitary), but this doesn't necessarily mean that this was all they were. Master Yoda doesn't exactly strike me as warrior material. Isn't it possible that the Jedi had more than one branch--warriors, teachers, researchers, writers, artists and craftspeople? These are just suggestions, but the Jedi are an interesting subject to delve into. I hope that you and others will go more deeply into the subject in future issues.

Marlene Karkoska: Absolutely loved all four and then some pages of your letter. You covered a lot of territory in a way that was both entertaining and educational. I have a few questions to propose that I hope that you and others will have time to give your opinions on. The first is an idea I've already used in a story (and I believe that someone else did, too, a couple years ago, though differently). Is it possible that some Jedi foresaw the downfall of the Order and the Old Republic but for reasons of their own (not necessarily evil ones) did nothing to prevent it? Is it possible that one of the reasons for the existence of the Jedi was to prevent people such as the Emperor from achieving so much power through use of the Dark Side of the Force by either converting them to the Light Side or destroying them (that is self-defense when you really think about it). Is Force-talent necessary in order to become a Jedi of any kind? Do different Jedi have different Force-talents? Were there espers who were not Jedi? Were the Jedi originally two warring groups--one over-rational in its desire to follow the Light Side and the other over-emotional in its desire for power--that had to combine in order to prevent universal destruction (go to town on that one, writers). If the Emperor was so powerful, why didn't his aura cause a disturbance in the Force that other Jedi would have felt and sought out? Did all the Terran-appearing people in the SW saga

originate from one world once upon a time? (A lot can happen in over 20,000 years of colonizing.) So much for just a 'few' questions.

Chris Callahan: Those who see the Dark and Light Sides of the Force as simple evil versus good are not going to listen to an argument which postulates that Light=logic and Dark=uncontrolled emotion and that the work of a good Jedi is to find a proper balance between the two. Of course, now that I've made such a statement, some fen may feel forced (as it were) to make their own comments. That's fine with me. I'd like to read about as many different interpretations of the Force as there are. Finally, Cheree, I'd like to thank you for all the kind words about KESSEL RUN 4. You know they were appreciated.

Luke's Good Points

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January 22, 1985

I'm very glad that you have decided to continue to publish SE. Thank you for continuing to give us the opportunity to share our ideas and comments. I'll try to control my runaway pen and not take up more than my share of your letterzine!

Sandra Necchi suggested in SE#5 that we talk about how nice Luke is instead of trying to defend him against unfair accusations, because no defense is necessary anyway. I mentioned a number of Luke's positive attributes in SE#4, but I think Luke has many other good qualities as well. I'm going to limit myself to only one: Luke's unselfishness.

From the beginning, Luke showed that he thought of others and put their needs and desires before his own. Although Luke desperately wanted to attend the Academy, and although he was certainly old enough to make his own decisions and be on his own, he stayed and

helped his aunt and uncle on the farm. Like many young people, he aired his feelings about the situation, but he didn't refuse to stay. He could have simply left, but he cared enough for his guardians that he stayed on Tatooine despite his unhappiness. In ANH, Luke put the welfare of others before his own safety when he endangered his life to rescue the Princess and battled the Death Star to protect the Rebel base.

Although becoming a Jedi Knight was of primary importance to Luke, in TESB he put aside his own personal goal of Knighthood temporarily, and left his training and the safety of Dagobah to try to help his friends who were in immediate danger in Cloud City. He showed that the lives of others were more important to him than his desire to be a Jedi.

A self-centered, egotistic person would have grabbed at the chance to rule the Galaxy. I think that Luke's ultimate act came when he refused to join his father in Darkness and jumped from the gantry on Bespin to avoid becoming an instrument of evil. In that act, he was offering his life for the benefit of the Galaxy. He was willing to sacrifice himself rather than to give in to his Father's temptations.

In ROTJ, Luke proved his unselfishness again when he led Han's rescue mission. At the time, Luke was still unaware that Leia was his sister. It is generally assumed that he loved the Princess and it must have crossed his mind that if Han never returned, there was a good chance that Leia might turn to him eventually. Luke could have chosen not to go rescue Han. He even had a good excuse: he could have said he needed to return to Dagobah. But Luke was unselfish and thought about the needs and wants of Han and Leia and showed his love for them. Skywalker not only went along to help in Han's rescue, he planned and led the rescue effort, and was ultimately responsible for Solo's safe return.

If Luke was a selfish person, he would have left Endor and run away from Vader as Leia suggested. Instead, he risked his life to face his father as his mentors said he must. Then he tried to return Vader, a man whom he had every reason to hate

back to the good side of the Force. He was again showing caring and concern for another, as well as extraordinary forgiveness.

If Luke had been egocentric and concerned only with himself and his own welfare, he would have made a beeline for the nearest exit the second the Emperor died on Death Star II, and wouldn't have given a single thought to Vader or anything or anyone else. Instead, Luke risked his own safe escape from the Death Star by carrying his dying father with him to the shuttle, which slowed him considerably and caused him to lose precious minutes which could very well have been the difference between life and death. Even after Vader's death, Luke still took the extra time necessary to get his father's remains aboard the Imperial craft.

Through these actions and many others throughout the saga, Luke demonstrated his unselfishness by placing the safety, needs and wants of others, ahead of his own.

Marcia Brin: You asked, "Who was Darth Vader following in TESB when he followed the Falcon?" I think maybe Darth Vader wasn't following a person at all, but was simply following a "Force aura" because perhaps a person doesn't develop a "Force aura" until after he or she has had considerable training in the Force, or, as others have suggested, unless he or she is actively using the Force. (Luke was actively using the Force in the Death Star trench in ANH when Vader said, "The Force is strong in this one.") Since Darth Vader knew that Luke had not received much training before Ben's death, he didn't expect to feel Skywalker's "aura" through the Force. So, perhaps Vader decided to follow the Falcon because he recognized it as the ship in which Luke and his friends had escaped from the Death Star, and which had sent him spinning off into space at the end of ANH. Darth Vader knew that Luke Skywalker was with the Rebel Forces on Hoth, but he probably didn't know exactly where Luke was, so he followed the Falcon, because of all the ships leaving Hoth, the Falcon was the most logical one to pursue. He knew that it belonged to Luke's friends, so

there was a possibility that Skywalker might be aboard. However, even if he found that his son was not aboard the Falcon when he captured the ship, he would still have the Falcon's crew--Luke's friends--for bait, so that he could trap young Skywalker. Either way, he could obtain his quarry. He probably figured that if Luke was aboard the Falcon--wonderful! If he wasn't, it would just take a little longer to have Skywalker in his possession. As Lando said, "Vader's set a trap," and as Leia replied, "And we're the bait!"

You also asked, "When the Emperor feels a great disturbance in the Force, who is he feeling?" You eliminated Luke because, "...he is on Dagobah which must be shielded, since the Emperor cannot read Yoda, who is more powerful than Luke." I don't think that we can arbitrarily make such a broad statement. Just because the Emperor can't "read Yoda," doesn't necessarily mean that Dagobah is shielded. Yoda may have been able to shield his own presence from the Emperor, but perhaps he didn't have the power to shield Luke and the entire planet of Dagobah as well. Personally, I think that the Emperor was feeling Luke when he felt "a great disturbance in the Force."

Marcia, you asked, "If these stories are for ten-year olds, what are we doing here? Why have we wasted years on something geared to young children?" George Lucas did write the stories for children. He said so a number of times. If they are also fun for adults, so much the better. I think part of the reason that the STAR WARS movies are so popular with adults is that they stretch the imagination, and they appeal to the child in all of us, the part of us that retains that sense of wonder, joy, and excitement in new discoveries and experiences. I am not embarrassed to admit that there's still something of the child left in me. I think the child in us helps us remain optimistic and idealistic in a difficult world, and is responsible for much of our joy, laughter, and love of life. I don't know about you, but I read SW fanzines and letterzines because I enjoy reading them. However, SW is not my whole life nor my

only interest, so it takes up only a very small fraction of my time.

Jean Stevenson: The sacrifice to which you referred in your last letter: ("...the last time I heard, 'Father, help me please!' in a story, it was followed by 'not my will, but Thine be done,' and the sacrifice still had to be allowed by a loving Father."), had a purpose--the Salvation of all mankind. The sacrifice of Luke's life would have served NO useful purpose. If Luke would have died, Vader and the Emperor would probably have gotten off of Death Star II safely. (With Luke no longer alive to occupy their attention, they would have probably realized that the shield generator had been destroyed and would have fled the Death Star.) With Luke's death, the Jedi would also have become extinct, the Alliance would have lost a good commander, and Han and Leia would have been saddened by a deep sense of loss of a best friend and new-found brother. At the point in question, Luke had already made his big choice: he had chosen the light over the dark, so it was not as though he needed to sacrifice himself in order to avoid becoming an instrument of evil. He had already rejected the Emperor's offer, he was now officially a Lightside Jedi Knight. I can't think of one good consequence that would have come from Skywalker's death at the Emperor's hands. What would have been gained if Luke had quietly allowed the Emperor to kill him? It would have been senseless for Luke to die for nothing. Only bad consequences would have resulted if Luke would have silently sacrificed his life, whereas a very good consequence resulted from the sacrifice to which you referred, so I don't really think your example puts Luke in a bad light at all.

Laura Virgil: I enjoyed your letter. I agree that one of the safest places to hide someone or something is in "plain sight." It was a very effective way to hide Leia by putting her out in the open and keeping her Force talents dormant so that she wouldn't be recognized by evil Force users.

I also agree that if Vader had met his son before Ben started to train Luke, he prob-

ably wouldn't have picked up any Force talent in him. Vader didn't feel the Force in Leia when he interrogated her, so as I said earlier (and as others have also said), it's very possible that one either needs to be actively using the Force or needs to have completed considerable training in the Force, before his or her presence can be detected through the Force. Luke didn't demonstrate any special Force talent or powers until Ben started to teach him. It seems that inheriting the Force is not enough, one still needs to be trained in order to use it, and even to be recognized as having it all.

As to how Vader discovered that he was Luke's father (he didn't seem to know that he had fathered twins until the end of ROTJ, because he seemed genuinely surprised to find out on Death Star II that Luke had a sister), it is possible that someone else may have told him (perhaps Palpatine as you suggested) or maybe he just began to put a lot of things together after the destruction of the first Death Star. I'm sure that finding the identities of the two men responsible for the rescue of Princess Leia and the Death Star plans, and of the Rebel pilot who had destroyed the Empire's deadly toy and the freighter pilot who spoiled Vader's fun over the Death Star, was a top priority goal for the Imperials and especially for Vader. The Empire probably didn't hesitate to torture some poor, hapless, captured Rebel to obtain such information. It probably didn't take them long to learn Luke's name and check into his background. Vader was never portrayed as a stupid character, so he probably considered it much more than a coincidence that a 20 year old by the name of Skywalker would just happen to be aboard the first Death Star at the same time Ben Kenobi was there. Add to that the fact that Vader felt evidence of Force talent in Luke as young Skywalker used the Force in the Death star trench, and probably other clues that we are as yet unaware, such as the fact that Vader probably knew or was related to Owen Lars (who was Luke's guardian), for example, and Vader could have discovered his relationship to Luke himself.

Elsie Bartok: In the nov-

elization, p. 117, during the conversation between Luke and Leia on the walkway, Luke asked Leia, "Do you remember your mother? Your real mother?" She answered, "Yes, just a little bit. She died when I was very young." Similar lines were also in the film, if I remember correctly. It was implied in the novelization that Bail Organa is not Leia's real father: "She'd always felt so close to her adopted parents, it was if they were her real parents. She almost never thought of her real mother--that was like a dream."

Barbara Brayton & Pam Lavasseur: You're right about Mr. Marquand reading all nine stories. There are nine stories now. However, the point I was trying to make was that the original story consisted of 6 stories, 2 trilogies, and that ROTJ was originally to be the concluding episode. However, after ANH came out and was so tremendously successful, George Lucas wrote another trilogy. Lucas said, "After the success of 'Star Wars,' I added another trilogy, but stopped there, primarily because reality took over. After all, it takes three years to prepare and make 'Star Wars' picture. How many years are left?"

Sandra Necchi & Melody Corbett: Although I think we're probably all in agreement that George Lucas simply changed his mind when he decided on a twinship for Luke and Leia, my pen pal came up with what I think is a very clever "explanation" for the difference in the ages of Luke and Leia. She said, "...the simple explanation could be that Leia was raised on Alderaan, and is accustomed to telling her age in Alderaani years, and Alderaan has a longer year than Tatooine. Say, for example, that Alderaan's year was two months longer than Tatooine's year. The two babies, at the end of their first planetary year, would no longer be the same age in planetary terms. Leia, on Alderaan, would have been one year old. Luke, on Tatooine, would have been one year and two months old. However, by actual time, they would have existed for exactly the same amount of time. So, while in some form of artificial 'standard' time Leia and Luke would be the same age, by local planetary time, there would be a difference." Isn't that an

ingenious idea? I loved it! Of course, George Lucas could probably also say that the ages of Luke and Leia are never stated in any of the films, and only the films themselves should be taken as canon.

Well, I have lots more to say (as usual!), but I know that Cheree will be upset (and rightfully so!) if I take up any more space in her letter-zine, so I'll control the urge to continue writing. My LoC is probably still longer than anyone else's! SORRY!

Cheap Products

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January 19, 1985

Greetings, Earth-People!

I'll open up with a bit of news. ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT said that we can expect two Saturday morning cartoons in the near future, DROIDS starring R2D2 and C3PO, and EWOKS featuring those Chip 'n Dale abominations that pass as Ewoks. They only showed a snip of each, but the animation looks good. What I'd like to see would be a Young Princess Leia cartoon show. Marvel Comics is also publishing an Ewok comic.

It was quite a birthday present Lucas gave me, in the form of THE EWOK ADVENTURE. I liked it. It was a damn sight better than the SW HOLIDAY SPECIAL. But this time I think he aimed a little too much at the kiddie audience. And it didn't seem to be a part of the same "reality"; there was too much outright magic, with picture-tops, boy-eating ponds, and stones that turn into mice and lizards. They used the same Ewok characters (Wicket, Tebo, Logray, etc.) but they lived on the ground instead of the trees. I suppose they moved from the "Suburbs" to the "Big City." The acting wasn't too hot, especially the parents, and the dreaded "Gorax", or whatever that giant's name was, reminded me of a giant I've seen in an old Little Rascals episode.

Despite various misgivings, I did enjoy it very much, and I do hope they try something like this again. In fact, I wish they'd tried doing this a long time ago.

B. J. Evans: Perhaps we should define the difference between a Force-User and a Force-Sensitive. A Force-Sensitive is a person with heightened perceptions. They would be able to sense other peoples' emotions and/or thoughts, be extremely aware of their surroundings, and possibly be clairvoyant. But a Force-User can manipulate his or her environment. They would be able to influence other peoples' thoughts and emotions, move or alter their surroundings, and not just see one possible future, but many. Han could very well be a Force-Sensitive, but it's less likely that he is a Force-User.

A story that portrays a white man helping out non-white people is racist? Why? Indiana Jones seemed to have considerable respect for those people, and they did need help.

Part of the problem with the SW movies is that there are so few women to be seen, even peripherally. This is why I think Wedge Antilles should have been a girl. With nothing else different "she" would have made the SW universe seem a little less segregated by sex.

I don't think that the SW toys are of the best quality, at least not for the price they charge; \$3 to \$5 for a 2" Jawa figure that probably cost less than 35¢ of cheap cloth and plastic. I don't like the mentality behind them, but the new G.I. Joe figures are better made and better articulated.

Lucas has gone on record somewhere, saying he wouldn't use STAR WARS to endorse a sugary breakfast cereal, because he felt they were bad for kids. Here's hoping that George chokes on his C3PO's. And in an article on the licensing of SW, in NEWSWEEK, I think, a LFL spokesperson said that someone had applied for the rights to do an R2D2 whisky flask but they were turned down because it was thought to be in poor taste. (Hey, if it was good enough for Mickey Mouse...) But I have been informed that not only is there now an R2D2 whisky flask, but there is also one of C3PO and Darth Vader. Look, I

don't mind that merchandising, but I do demand quality and a reasonable price. When the ROTJ Glow-In-The-Dark Erasers don't glow in the dark or erase very well, then you know things have gone too far.

Mary Keever: The manager at the cafeteria where I work told me she saw and liked E.T., and she seemed almost embarrassed about it. She was almost whispering. But she isn't as bad as my father. I always knew he was 99 and 44/100% mundane before the last time I saw him (he hates cats, comic books and all SF) but I never expected him to get worse! I saw him for the first time in seven years this Christmas, only to find out he is a card carrying member of the Moral Majority. I told them about my killer cookie jar story that I'm working on, and they were stunned. My step-mother asked me why I didn't write about "nice things...like 'Little House on the Prairie?'" She is also convinced that the Dungeons & Dragons game and the He-Man cartoon show are Satanic plots. It would be funny if they weren't my own family.

Carole Regine: If you think The Sex Pistols and Tortured Puppies are gross, you should have seen the third group I mentioned that Cheree didn't print. It was so crass that I spent two hours looking through my old FUTURE LIFE magazines just to make sure that they actually existed, only to have her edit it out, undoubtedly on the grounds that it was racist. ((Ed: Can't remember exactly what it was but it was something on the order of Niggers in Chains, something I felt was completely outside the bounds of even bad taste.)) This reminds me about something else I read in FUTURE LIFE. They featured quite a few articles on New Wave rock bands. Some European group, German I think, was disappointed with the soundtrack to STAR WARS. Symphony music?? They've got to be kidding, they said. A "futuristic" movie like SW needed only one type of music; New Wave, not any of that old-fashioned, fuddy-duddy orchestra stuff.

When I listen to music I can't help but visualize it in my mind. I still feel that the right song with the right film clips could produce a dandy trailer that wouldn't conflict with Williams' work. I wouldn't

eliminate any type of music as totally inappropriate for such a purpose. If one of the Networks were to be struck with an uncharacteristic fit of intelligence and produce a mini-series on the conquering of the Solar System, then I would like to see them use mostly country and folk music. Example: an asteroid prospector shown playing "Take Me Home, Country Road" in his one man survey ship, or "The City of New Orleans" heard over a ship docking with an O'Neill type space colony.

Sandra Necchi: It is indeed true that not all Han-fans are members of the Church of Ford or subscribers of the "evil Luke" doctrine. A friend of mine named Susan is a rabid Han-Fan, but she has nothing against Luke. I've been tempted to smack her upside of the head when she occasionally refers to Luke as a "wimp", but I suspect that she's just thinking about their physiques when she says that. I told her about the "evil Luke" doctrine, and how Luke supposedly succumbed to he Dark Side, that Lucas doesn't like him, and that Luke couldn't tie his shoelaces without help from Han. She was struck incredulous, unable to understand this phenomenon.

Regarding your comments about terrorism. Are you saying that the ends justify the means? What did it accomplish when the farms of neutrals were burned during the American Revolution? I was unaware of this, but I refuse to condone it, as it accomplished nothing but destruction. I'm not inclined to be sympathetic to any group or person who sets off a bomb in a shopping center, no matter what cause they espouse, even if I support that cause. Desperation is hardly an excuse for random slaughter. You may glamorize terrorists as "freedom fighters" if you wish. Some of them may be just that. But why is it that so many revolutions sour into totalitarian establishments?

If the Soviets haven't been able to stamp out organized religion, it hasn't been for lack of trying. If you want to talk about propaganda, then we can talk about Billy Graham; how do you know what went on after he left? And I wouldn't slam American journalists if I were you. They're not exactly cuddly with the present administration (thank God) and they

just love to take jabs at the government. It is because of our news media that we supported the revolutionaries in El Salvador, at least until they started screwing with the elections.

I'm not an idealist. Some ends justify some means. And I know war is Hell. But if Luke, Leia or Han started harrassment against neutrals, blowing up public transports or killing civilian hostages, then they might lose the support of the people they proclaim to be fighting for.

In the X-Men there is an interesting relationship between Kirt Wagner and Logan, a/k/a Nightcrawler and Wolverine. They disagree on so many things, but they'd both die for the other if they had to. Kirt, despite his demonic appearance, is a devout Catholic, Logan an atheist. One particular conversation occurred in issue #140. Nightcrawler was somewhat appalled at Wolverine's violence in dealing with a particular adversary. Kirt felt that killing was wrong, no matter what. Part of Logan's reply was, "A man comes at me with his fists, I'll meet him with his fists. But if he pulls a gun--or threatens people I'm protectin'--then I got no sympathy for him. He made his choice. He'll have to live--or die--with it." And Kirt responds, "I understand, Logan. What you say is reasonable, logical, justifiable. But does that make it right?" I seldom totally agree with either of them.

Many life forms do peculiar things when confronted with unsolvable dilemmas or excessive stress, humans included. "I know" is not the most tactful reply, agreed, but it wasn't said in a cocky or hurtful manner. It just may have been the only response that he could muster.

I am deeply shocked that any letterzine would tell Sandra to "go away, we don't want you to play with us anymore." Very childish, not to mention distressingly clique-ish. What are letterzines for? An exchange of varied and occasionally conflicting ideas, or a clearing house for mutual admiration societies? This particular l-z editor had better re-examine her ethics.

I haven't yet felt like giving up on "V", but the show has steadily deteriorated. Visi-

tor Shocktroops must have taken shooting lessons from Stormtroopers, or maybe the A-Team. Diana missed Donovan when he was standing still at near point-blank range. Elias had to do something incredibly stupid like run out into the open before they could blow him away with a special-effect. I remember in STARLOG Garner Simmons said something like, "A single laser blast costs \$600, but we have to have the zap-guns or it won't be as exciting." Oh, lawsey, lawsey, lawsey!!! Won't they ever learn? So much of what drew me into "V" has been eliminated or replaced with mediocre pap. Elizabeth was one of my favorite characters; she ain't no more. Ham and Willy were bright spots in imaginative scripts, but Ham has left the scene and they almost bumped off Willy. I'm not sure where the show is going anymore. As far as I'm concerned, Blat & Singer and Garner Simmons can shove it up their Prae-ta-nama. I'll stick with the novels. They are showing imagination and integrity.

Debbie Gilbert: I think Gremlins are cute! A poster of Stripe kept my crazy grandmother out of my room, to which I'm entirely grateful. As for the marketing, keep in mind that young children also want toys with Godzilla, Frankenstein and the Wolfman featured on them. Spielberg knows that monsters are fun.

(I'm afraid there's another typo in my last letter. I wrote "Han vs. Luke at its worst has nothing on even the mildest K/S debates". You dropped the K/S from the sentence. ((Ed: Whoops! Sorry!)) I understand that you were quite rushed, however, so no big deal.)

A few comments on some movies; I saw THE LAST STARFIGHTER and ROMANCING THE STONE together at a drive-in. STARFIGHTER was better than I thought it would be, and that was a TRON-ish videogame exploitation flic. The plot and characters were quite interesting, though the drive-in didn't do those excellent computer graphics any justice. ROMANCING THE STONE was also quite enjoyable. I only wish that little sociopath with the bolas had stayed in the plot long enough to have been blown away or eaten by an alligator. I did not like that kid.

I've seen the movie and then

read the book of 2010: THE YEAR WE MAKE CONTACT. The movie was the better telling of the story, I think, but the book has all sorts of interesting things they couldn't pack into the movie. I do wish all the reviewers and critics would stop griping that it's not the landmark 2001 was, and otherwise making undue comparisons between the two films.

I enjoyed STARMAN, despite an ad campaign that presented it as a cross between E.T. and a Harlequin Romance. That'd be accurate enough, if you include MORK & MINDY and THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL. It seems as if all aliens who visit our planet do at least two things: they take up earthly vices (drinking, gambling) and watch romantic movies on our television.

RUNAWAY was one of the most entertaining of the movies I've seen this year. Three cheers for Michael Crichton! Not to mention Tom Selleck, Cynthia Rhodes, Gene Simmons, Kirstie Alley and whoever made those robots. Sure, there are a few (small) gaps in credibility, but Crichton said he wanted to make a "popcorn movie," and by golly he did! Now, I wonder where I could get a couple of those spider-seekers.

When I listed all the other people who have contributed to the SW movies, directors, actors, etc., I forgot to mention Leigh Brackett (shame on me!). I can't help but speculate how TESB would have turned out if she could have finished it.

Sally Smith: Why is media fandom dominated by the XX chromosome? No single reason, I think. There are some differences between men and women, I'm sure, but that can't account for all of it. There are also economic factors. One friend of mine isn't as involved in active fandom as he once was because he now has a family to support. There is also the imprecise, but not entirely unjustified impression that some male SF fans have of media fen being just a bunch of women obsessed with the male actors.

Marcia Brin: Mighty arrogant of you to conclude that either you are right or Lucas is a jerk. I suspect the latter, in any case. I tried to look up that Spielberg quote to check its context, but you must be working from the hardback

edition because I couldn't find it on that page in the paperback. Spielberg is welcome to his opinion, and I'm just as welcome to take it with a grain of salt. TEMPLE OF DOOM, whatever virtues it might have, was not very consistent. I would also take issue with the statement that TV is immoral, rather than it is amoral; taking a stand on any issue is anathema to the task of selling diet drinks, mouthwash and underarm deodorant.

Is SW a "we" story or an "I" story? More importantly, is it Ying or is it Yang? Animus or Anima?! Is it an Apple or an Orange?! Yeah, verily! If these and other questions are not answered soon, fandom will surely spin itself into the dust, never to be seen again.

You missed the point of the birthday party analogy. It is precisely the point that it was a life-and-death situation. That's not the time to take chances. Niceness is not a virtue when planning a covert action.

With the exception of Against the Sith, I don't remember any zines that had Leia "swooning over how wonderful, noble, generous, good, kind Luke and how (Leia) could never be worthy of him." In those early days of SW fandom we were drawing on two hours of movie to do what ST fandom was doing with seventy or so hours of TV. Back then, Leia was a bitch, Luke a hick kid, and Han your basic stud/redneck. (Oh, and please be careful how you sling that word "wimp" around.) You would take the true climax of the film, the moment Luke realizes he is about to make a big mistake, and twist it into some sort of selfish act. You have been asked this before, I ask it again: if Luke Skywalker did absolutely nothing right, then what should he have done instead?

The Emperor does indeed identify the disturbance in the Force as male. He also identifies it as "the son of Skywalker." Are you saying Han is Luke's brother? And Vader may not be homing in on anyone's Force abilities. He may simply be working under the assumption, perhaps devined through the Force, that if he has the Falcon, Luke will be soon to follow. If that was his assumption, he was correct.

I've done my best to keep things light, to introduce potential subjects of discussion, I've even been a bit silly now and then (there's something about SE that inspires the crass eccentric in me). And Lord knows I'm not one to ignore this blasted Han vs. Luke crap. I have this unfortunate tendency to not ignore cheap-shots and irrelevancy, you understand. But somehow the subject does not seem important enough to warrant entire LOCs on it and it alone. Can't we talk about anything else?

Hi Yo Silver Away....

On Second Thought

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One thing about Han Solo: he's not easy to stay mad at. Having just viewed TESB after four years (and I'd only seen it twice then) I've had a chance to finally watch my favorite SW film since having joined the discussion in the letterzines in late '83, which was when I first began actually thinking about the SW universe. This very special viewing (on a friend's VCR) gave me the opportunity to observe all the characters even more carefully, and my admiration for Kershner has doubled, but my appreciation of the acting by the three principals, and Mayhew, has increased even more. Each managed to convey such powerful emotions in just a look or two. And, again, Han's part in the film made me more sympathetic to him, more than I ever have been in the past. I watched closely the scenes between him and Leia and I really saw for the first time the depth of struggle these two people are undergoing and I can no longer judge Han harshly. I do not believe either was "wrong"---I simply can't bring myself to judge them (the same goes for Luke). So the last part of my LoC from last issue is a tirade expressing past feelings based on skewed memories of a film that had dimmed in clarity over the years, and also based on annoyance of recent fan deifica-

tion of the character. Those of you who have a VCR probably cannot fully appreciate all this. It was like seeing the film for the first time, only with a much clearer mind-set. Would that GL had given his characters as much freedom and dignity in ROTJ as Kershner did in TESB! Then the SW saga would have, in my mind, reached its true potential. Sorry to sound so gushy. I usually complain about such sentimentality, and here I am committing the same sin. I just can't convey in words the impact this film has on me. To those who reject the notion that Han and Leia can't have a fulfilling marriage, my third viewing of the film has put me on your side. I see some problems arising between them but nothing insurmountable. It is a mistake to impose our own society's limited definition of marriage on the world of SW, and I will do it no more. And it is certainly heartening to hear good examples in fandom itself of marriage that restricts neither partner's potential.

Liz Sharpe: What a wonderful, extremely well-written, intelligent article! (I think you deserve the title of Most Logical Writer hands down!) As one who initially balked at the droid torture scene in ROTJ, I was at first skeptical about your attempt to justify it, but as I continued to read the article further and further, you convinced me! But if we take the argument into the realm of practicality, I have to ask this question: WHY make droids that can feel pain? Why would the Empire or Alliance or any one else manufacture/purchase droids that feel pain? I would think it would be a large handicap in terms of extracting information about one's enemies. Also, you neglect a third reason (and the most practical) for torture: getting information. Torture is usually a messy, time-consuming, expensive business (anyone interested in hearing the gruesome figures for torture and torture-training budgets for governments around the world, including the U.S.?). Doing it just for sadism probably occurs much less frequently than for getting information, although your second reason--punishment--probably occurs just as often.

Laura Virgil: I liked your

refutation of Han the Force-user, in reference to shooting the Sarlaac. I think the argument denigrates Han's abilities. I prefer to think he has learned these skills because he's naturally talented, not just because he's got the Force. All the examples of Han's Force usage have always seemed to me to be wild exaggerations. So he's a great mechanic (this gets translated into "mechanical genius") and pilot. Since ANY pilot can fly through an asteroid field (asteroids being light years apart) I can't take that one seriously. Any argument based on bad science is based on nothing. Barbara Brayton and P. J. LaVasseur refute the "Blind Han" theory pretty well too. Again, it's a denigration of Han's intelligence. I don't think he'd be so irresponsible as to take on such a crucial mission (as leader yet) with a handicap he can't control. Besides, his gaze is very steady and direct during the briefing.

Mickey Malkin: You mention that Luke got the same sort of deification that Han is getting now. I wasn't around to see it. Perhaps if I had been, I would be much less of a "Luke defender" now. Since I think you're one of the fairest, most rational people in SW fandom today, I'll ask you and take your word for it: was the Luke-worship you allude to as gushy and as extreme as the current spate of obsessive "Han-ism"? And was it accompanied with a truly virulent attack on Han? If so, I'm glad I wasn't around to see it. Fanaticism over one character is quite enough to witness, thank you. Yes, Mickey, you were quite right: I was blunt. If I think an idea is extreme, I'll say so. Tim Blaes said it so well: "Those who whine 'personal attack' are very often people who cannot withstand a direct challenge to any of their opinions." Tim and I seem to have no qualms about calling them as we see them. My opinions have been excoriated and ridiculed many times already and not once have I cried "personal attack". And even if someone DID say "Sandra Necchi's brains are full of mush" or "Necchi, you're an idiot", not one peep of protest would you get from me. Although you might get some sarcasm. I also find it rather funny that those who've taken up the "per-

sonal attack" defense are the very same people who've done nothing but assassinate the (fictional) person of a character.

About this Shelley Swan letter--I thought it was a satirical put-on. That's why I liked it. But now Debbie Gilbert implies this person is serious. HUH?

Jeanine Hennig: Your LoC was just a pure joy to read! You and Chris Callahan alluded to the same sort of thing. You mentioned a point Anne Zeek made once (I think she put in a story) about what might have happened to Luke if he HADN'T gone to rescue his friends, and Chris refers to the evils of pure reason. Jedi he might have become, but not a very human one. One of the greatest flaws in the whole argument is the separation of personal motivations and drives from the larger political/moral issues. I've said this before: the personal and the political are very often one and the same, especially in a rebellion like the one presented in SW. People rarely act solely for one reason. Luke's quest for his father is as much a political/moral decision as it is a personal one. Since GL's characters are meant to be symbols, their actions take on symbolic (as well as personal) meaning. I concede that on the point of symbology, GL has provided a very rich playground from which you can go in all sorts of directions. The Luke-haters have taken advantage of it quite well (if not too much). But there are other directions to go to (and, for me, ones that are more positive). Luke's quest for his father is not "merely personal." It's can't be. Saying that ignores the whole thrust of the SW saga.

Tim Blaes: I still haven't bought SKYWALKING (nor read it) and never will. I flipped through some pages at a book store, and reading GL's life story just isn't my idea of an exciting reading experience. You mentioned RED DAWN. I initially joined in the heavy criticism of this film (it's gotten very heated reaction in Europe where some governments have refused to screen it). Having read several interviews with John Milius, I've concluded that he's a very sick person. He gives new meaning to the word "paranoia". But I recently

read a review by a critic I admire and he gave me second thoughts about the film. Ignoring the crazy premise, the film glorifies the idea of rebellion by ordinary people, working collectively to help themselves, an idea I've always found attractive.

Barbara Izzo: Come now, do you really believe that I could ever think that I could ever intimidate True Believers like Brin, Corbett, Stevenson? These are SERIOUS people. I'm not in their League at all. If it makes you feel better, to label my blunt criticisms of the Evil Luke premise as "intimidation", go right ahead, but don't say my aggressiveness is directed against "people who disagree" with me in general. My "intimidation" as you call it has been directed against only one group of fans. I've disagreed with many others. NOTHING I could ever come up with would be accepted by you as "tangible evidence." And the reverse is probably true. You and I see the Saga in such completely different ways that no matter what I or you do with the "facts" would ever matter. But you seem to assume that there exists some independent realm of "facts" that can be plucked and made to fit only one theory. It's not the facts themselves, it's what we do with them that matters.

Karen Finch: Wow, your response to my criticism of the discussion on color really blew me away! I didn't even have Terri Black's article in mind! Actually, I liked Terri's article because it was eminently reasonable, besides being well-written. What I had in mind when I said "WHO CARES?" was the incessant harping on the issue to prove Luke's evil nature. I don't mind it when things like color and fairy tales are analyzed in the Saga. It's only when they're taken to extremes (which Terri did not do) that I begin to complain. My complaint was not directed at Terri's article at all, but I can see why you thought it was. It was my stupidity in not clarifying what I was complaining about. Terri's piece was positive, not meant to assassinate anyone. I'm just tired of the exaggerated attention given to the subject by others. Again, Elsie Bartok brings it up (last ish)--Luke's black

costume. I guess she didn't hear GL's own comments on the subject on the PBS special--comments which I and other fans have pointed to countless times. How many times do we have to go thru it? So, to Karen and Terri, I'm truly sorry for carelessly wording my criticism in such a way that you couldn't help but assume I was insulting Terri's article.

I think that Elsie Bartok is wrong to claim that the Luke-haters are the only ones to come up with original ideas. I've seen many imaginative ideas in each issue of SE alone from other fans, ideas which are just as valid and just as creative. By the way, I'd like to know Ellison's point of view on ROTJ too!

About TOD: Look, I can understand if people like this film just for the sake of adventure. Hell, I was enjoying myself until the scene at the Temple--although I got my first warning before then, during the food scene. What was the point of that scene if not to stereotype in a negative condescending way? A few people have said that since this film is set in the 30's, the charge of racism doesn't apply. There's a lack of historical perspective in that argument. People think that racism was recognized in the 60's and that before then, no one knew what it was. Ever hear of a film called BIRTH OF A NATION made in the early 20's? For months afterward, there were racial riots throughout the country. (For those unfamiliar with the film, it glorified the KKK and portrayed Blacks as rapists of white women and other such hideous stereotypes.) The 1920's and 30's saw an increase in Black activism, and the Roosevelt administration was forced to deal with their demands, at least superficially. Certainly the 60's opened up the national dialogue to a greater extent, but the issue didn't just appear out of the blue with Rosa Park's refusal to sit in the back of the bus in 1954. In the 1980's, after all the riots and bloodshed and international awakening of the past, artists are even more aware (presumably) of the issue and for GL and SS to continue these stereotypes about non-white people, shows only ignorance on their part. I'll quote from an Indian group who pro-

tested the film: the film is permeated with "hideous racial imagery" and "after two hours of seeing Indians depicted as stupid, smelly brutes to be blown away to the cheers and applause of a youthful audience, we were so appalled that we felt we had to condemn the film publicly." The group also mentioned interviews done by local TV stations with audience members, one of whom said, "I don't see anything wrong with the film. Maybe people over there live like that." They go on to say that the film "panders to racial hatred and xenophobia" and "fosters...confusion and ignorance." I underlined two of what I feel to be the most important sections. The last line deserves a little more discussion. I've read fan reactions to this film that take it as an accurate presentation of history. If you want to enjoy the film on just a superficial level without any analysis, that's fine with me. But when fans start drawing historical conclusions from it (thereby taking it seriously), as well as cultural and religious, then TOD has succeeded in doing exactly what that last quote accuses it of doing. It is not your culture being held up to ridicule in front of the world, and so you can't understand what it feels like to the people it has hurt.

On a totally different subject: Linda Deneroff raised an important point with me regarding my "Revolutionary" article in issue #3 (or was it #4?) ((Ed: #4, I think.)) She said that every revolution has had some outside help to carry on its war. I thought of this but didn't include it because I thought there were really only two sides. But how BIG is the Empire/Republic? Might the Rebellion have had some help from outside forces, or from forces within the Empire that have kept themselves quiet? Like some alternate Force-using group? I've always liked the idea of a schism (or several) within the Jedi, and that perhaps Obi-Wan/Luke/Vader-type Jedi are not the only ones around.

One last thing: I nominate Cheree Cargill as best letter-zine editor in all of media fandom! ((Ed: Thanks, Sandi. Can you see me grinning from there?))

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January 26, 1985

This is my first letter to SE although I've been a subscriber since #1. I really think you're doing a great job. All letter wars aside, I think SE is the friendliest letterzine I've ever subscribed to. The funny comments and in-jokes between friends (who got their letter in first this month-- Jenni Henni or Annie Wortham? Sally and Jenni's mutual Luke-lust. And as for FAR REALMS SEX...) make me feel as if I know them and could start a conversation with them at a con. You've got good, well thought out articles, which I can see the points in, even when I don't agree with the author. The whole spirit of the letters, for the most part, is very cordial, with cool, rational arguments. Very few put downs, although those few really tend to stick in the memory. For instance, I thought some of the reactions to your request to take it easy on the arguments and personal attacks were totally uncalled for. It's a shame, sad really, that people could take a simple request to stick to civilized disagreement and twist it so. Maybe they think the only important thing worth talking about in the saga is whether Luke succeeded or failed, but personally, from some of the reactions, "Methinks they doth protest too much."

Anyone who was involved in Trek fandom just a few years ago might remember some of the fan wars which were going on over the K/S question. This situation reminds me very much of that. Very strong feelings on both sides, and when rational arguments gave out, both sides fell back on name calling and other unpleasant things. A great deal of bitterness was caused, but nothing really changed. Most people never changed their minds, but eventually remembered IDIC and decided to "agree to disagree" and allow others the right to their own opinions without risking attack for it. I agree strongly with what Michelle Malkin said on the response to your request.

Sandra Necchi: Your letters

are always thought provoking and interesting, even when I don't agree. I definitely agree, though, with your analysis of the Han-Leia situation in TESB. Speaking as a 30's-40's movie buff, that's exactly what the type character Han was based on would do in that situation. Anyone who'd lived that kind of life would have been in situations where demonstrating emotion would make them vulnerable, and being vulnerable at the wrong time could make one very dead. Situations like that are the source of the "strong, silent type" who shows no emotion, which men are fortunately starting to reject. The type is rampant in the type of movie which SW was taken from, with Gable and Bogart as the most obvious examples.

Speaking of 30's movies leads me to the SW sources Bev Clark mentioned; a good list, but as regards movies, I'd like to add a few more sources. They are suggested, as I've never read them directly admitted to in any articles I've read.

For the relationships of the romantic leads in both Lucas' series, I'd name Gable/Harlow (RED DUST, most notably), Tracy/Hepburn ("I don't know if you can lick me or I can lick you, but together, we can lick them all"--PAT AND MIKE), and the THIN MAN series of movies with William Powell and Myrna Loy. The most obvious of the steals would be from the novel (not the movie) GONE WITH THE WIND. The scene in the ice cave on Hoth ("...rather kiss a Wookiee") and in the Falcon's cabin ("...I like nice men...") are lifted almost word for word from the novel's scenes with Scarlett and Rhett. I can't help wondering if whoever's in charge of Margaret Mitchell's estate has seen EMPIRE.

The characters are very much alike, as Scarlett and Rhett were simply the culmination of 30's stock characters of each type. "The tough guy with the creme filling", as Carrie Fisher put it, and the tough, spirited but vulnerable woman he becomes involved with. In RAIDERS this is even more blatant. Indy is partially the intellectual, mild-mannered Ashley, content to be happily buried on digs for the rest of his life, and the practical, capable, sarcastic, tough but vulnerable Rhett. As for Mar-

ion, who sees her father (implied in the novelization) slowly losing his mind, then dying and 'leaving her penniless, stranded, having to make her way as best as she could in a man's world... As God is my witness, need I say more?

Another interesting point is how alike they are as characters, and not in the way you'd think. In basic personality traits, there are two characters Lucas seems to be using in his series; Leia/Indy, the person whose mission is the focal point for the characters' adventures, serious and singleminded about their cause, and Han/Marion, the tough, independent companion who gets dragged around "like a rag", usually into trouble, and whose involvement in the plot stems from their involvement with the other character(s).

There's one other source which was mentioned by Lucas and Co. in a backhanded way, and for those of you who were wondering what happened to Luke in the above, here's where he comes in. The aerial dogfight scenes were admitted to have been taken from old WWII movies. Now, in those movies, there was generally a brotherly relationship between an older, flippant, worldly-wise pilot (usually played by Dana Andrews) and a young, naive, fresh-off-the-farm pilot (generally Farley Grainger). This situation explains the Han/Luke relationship in ANH, a relationship which by this time is a staple of every war movie and TV show.

To go off the subject of SW for a moment, there's another movie which Larry Kasdan admitted in a STARLOG interview that he used for inspiration in RAIDERS. He mentioned that he'd seen this movie, TOO HOT TO HANDLE, quite a few times and, if you've seen it, you can pick up all sorts of subtle steals from it in RAIDERS. The most obvious is Gable's escaping from some angry natives by hanging on the pontoon of a plane. At least Ford made out better than Gable did in his comparable scene; only one side was shooting (in a manner of speaking) at him, and he, at least didn't have to wear a chicken outfit stolen from a witch doctor as a disguise during the scene.

Bev also opened a fascinating can of worms with the editor vs. compiler question. This also leads to the question of

what kind of editing is implied by this. It could be as simple as editing for style (smoothing out rough edges and rewording to make a meandering point more clear) or the more questionable editing for content. Editing for content puts us up against all the First Amendment/Freedom of Speech questions brought up in re editorial policies, but editing for style is much more subtle. It could range anywhere from making a long-tailed argument taking off on wild tangents more concise, to changing wording which might change the intended meaning of the argument. This question definitely deserves more discussion.

Debbie Gilbert: About the GREMLINS marketing being geared for young children, interestingly enough it isn't the cute mogwais the kids like, it's the blood-thirsty Gremlins. This probably relates to the fact that this same age group tends to look on Darth Vader and other baddies as their favorite characters. I've seen more interesting articles on the subject (although I can't recall where) connecting this with kids' identification with power figures, probably as an antidote to the helplessness kids often feel in an adult world. Having a powerful friend like that who can avenge any hurts would be powerful stuff. Also, in many ways the Gremlins do what kids would often like to do if they weren't civilized out of behaving that way.

I also like your explanation of that glitch about "your father wanted you to have this when you were old enough". It works well.

Sonia Blodgett: Thank you for saying that neither Han nor Luke are the strongest in the saga, morally or emotionally--the Princess is! Yeah! After being trashed as a character for so long, it's about time she came into her own.

Maggie Nowakowska's idea about Leia and the Dark Side is quite an intriguing one. The potential is definitely there. I hope someone follows Michelle Malkin's example in this case and turns the idea into a story or vignette. I'd love to read it. (I know, Sally, I know. If I wanna read it, I gotta write it. EEEK!)

Cheree, I really liked your reasoning on why Anakin might have fallen to the Dark Side.

It gibes very well with the revelations in ANH and ROTJ, also with mythology and Christianity (pride being the source of Lucifer's fall), which are drawn upon by Lucas as source material.

Before I forget, on that question in #5 about Harrison Ford being on LEAVE IT TO BEAVER, that same subject came up in the entertainment page of my local paper. According to them, he wasn't a regular, but in the show's last season he played a repeating role (no, it didn't say how many times) as one of Wally's friends, known as "Fat Chester". Terry the Toad lives!

Barbara Izzo's theory about Han's possible blindness was quite plausible. The few nits I have to pick with it have already been pretty well covered by other people, so suffice to say that my personal belief is that either his eyesight and functions weren't fully regained yet at that point, or that he suffered some damage to his eyesight that might turn out to be permanent, though not total blindness.

Pam and Barb: I keep finding myself agreeing with the points you make, especially Barb's on the Imps being so busy playing politics and stabbing each other in the back while jockeying for power that they'd have trouble staying together to fight any outside threat. Possibly the Emperor was the glue holding the whole thing together, and without him they'd just splinter off into quarreling factions which would be less of a threat to defeat.

Also, on RLA and TOD not being in your opinion racist films (this was pretty well covered by Sally Syrjala, but I'm going to repeat the point in order to lead into a new one), I agree, for one specific reason--the time in which they are set. What many people don't take into account is that these movies are supposed to be taking place in the 1930's and the characters' actions must be judged with this in mind. At that time, racism was far more rampant than it is now. In places like Shanghai, New Delhi and Cairo, Caucasians usually socialized in whites-only clubs from which the native population was barred, in their own country, much like Harlem's legendary Cotton Club, with its black

entertainers and white only audience. The same segregation dealt with many other factors of everyday life, as it did in the American South until fairly recently. There is a famous story about how Mohandas Ghandi, when a young, well-to-do lawyer fresh out of Oxford, was thrown into the 3rd class car of a train, despite having paid for a 1st class ticket, simply because he wasn't white. Compare this with Jones' attitude toward people of other cultures and races whom he meets. As you pointed out, he's quite respectful and deals with people as his equals. As for the fact that the villagers asked for his help rather than take action on their own, again it's a sign of the times. Under the British Raj in India, independent thought and freedom of action of the native population was not exactly cherished. The Hindu caste system was used very well as a tool to keep the natives in line. The Maharaja and his people appear to be Brahmins, the highest caste in Hinduism, whereas the villagers, although not untouchables, would be on the lower end of the scale. The British tended to rule their territory through the existing Rajas, so if the villagers tried to defeat Mola Ram and the Maharaja themselves, it might well have been treated as an uprising against British rule. Indy, on the other hand, could get away with it, being a Caucasian, for the system would favor his word and deeds over that of a "native", no matter how highly placed. My guess is, he knew it, too, and is why he suggested getting in touch with his friends in Delhi. Also, it seems that the banquet scene has been widely misinterpreted. Think about the most commonly known fact about the Hindu dietary laws, then think about the scene. I don't say that the scene wasn't used for its YUK value, but dramatically it was also the tip-off to let the "good guys" know that things weren't the way they were supposed to be. The novelization is more clear on this. It includes a scene where Indy and the British Army officer (darned if I can remember his name; I just call him Colonel Blimp. He's so typically Kiplingesque British Army that Nigel Bruce would've been a shoe-in for the role if he were still alive)

((Ed: It was Captain Blumburtt)) were discussing the dishes offered, and the fact that Hindus don't eat meat. This made them both suspicious that something was wrong, and that due to whatever it was, someone was trying to scare them away.

As to what happened to Short Round, the foster parents idea would work. I don't think he'd appreciate what he might well see as being "dumped", though. I've got a slightly different theory, though, which I mentioned in passing in a story due to appear in WELL OF THE SOULS #5 (insert plug here). Indy takes Marion to a nightclub in San Francisco and the singer turns out to be a certain familiar looking blonde. Like the song says, anything goes!

OK, back to SW. On the Luke committing patricide angle, I think it numbers among the hard choices one has to make and live with during such a life-and-death struggle. Luke is forced (no pun intended) into a situation where he has to choose whether or not to commit a lesser evil in order to destroy a greater one. Such choices, however unpalatable, must be made.

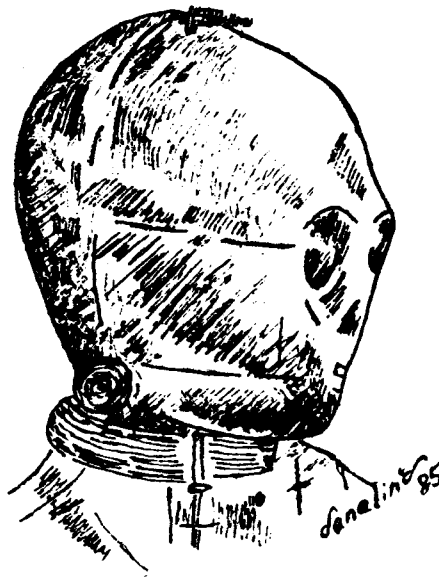
Marcia Brin: You went deeply into Lucas' mention of his thoughts on myth, fairy tale and morality in SKYWALKING, as he related them to the SW series. However, you omitted (from the same source) his emphasis on the phrase "Question Authority" and its personal importance to him. This certainly seems to relate, also, to the question at hand.

I definitely like the way your articles have been going the past few issues. "In This Corner..."--Marcia Brin's articles are always thought-provoking and well worked out arguments. I can certainly appreciate them, even when, as in this case, I don't agree with her conclusions. Liz Sharpe's "Teleology of Torture" brought up an angle to a throwaway scene which I'll guarantee most of us never thought much about. Ann Wortham's con report brought back some hysterical memories of that blooper reel at Worldcon. Oh, to locate the person who was filming the thing with their Beta videocamera. Anyone there know who they were?

Last, but certainly not least was the report of stalking Harrison Ford in Pennsylvania.

Brought back some great memories of stalking Leonard Nimoy all over NYC when he was doing EQUUS. Those sneakers sound like a total rip. He wins the Frank Marshall crazy color combinations award. Maybe he's been working with Frank too much. Bright orange might be contagious. Just what the heck is an Indiana Stoltzfus, anyway? My German may be rusty, but not so rusty that I think Stoltzfus is German for Jones! According to my German dictionary, "stoltz" means "haughty" and "fus" is "foot, or to gain a foothold". Or is the meaning different in Pennsylvania Deutsch, or the Yiddish it might also be? I've never heard the expression before, so I'd appreciate an explanation from anyone out there. ((Ed's note: As explained elsewhere in this issue, "Stoltzfus" is a common Amish name; the shirts were a joke. And, if you've seen the movie, you'll know that there was a character called "Stoltzfus" in it.))

Well, that's finally the end, I think. I'll bet you're relieved. That'll larn me to LoC two thick issues at once, and the space bar on this baby computer's only working on one side right now, to boot. Gotta hurry and get all the stuff out so this thing can go into the shop. Don't let the mogwais bite!



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January 28, 1985

Issue #6 seems to be a letterzine on the conducting of letterzines. That's fine, and it needed to be discussed, but I do hope we're almost finished. There are markedly fewer stars in the margin of my copy because of it--I primarily prefer to discuss SW itself.

Not that fandom's issues shouldn't be discussed--I appreciated, for instance, both Ann Wortham and Laura Virgil pointing out to me the seriousness of the "zine fraud" problem in fandom. I do tend to be something of a Pollyanna, and I thought it was only isolated incidents. My objection to consumer complaints was not, of course, to their existence, which is clearly needed, as I said; it is to the unbridled expression of anger in some of them, and to the possibility of them being directed at someone who made an honest mistake. Perhaps the latter is not as possible as I imagined, but the former can happen. Venting one's spleen is not going to get anyone her money back.

I found Liz Sharpe's "Teleology of Torture" most impressive. She not only showed how torture could be effective on droids but why the scene should be included at all. Quite convincing.

A number of people had some interesting ideas on the Jedi. Sally Syrjala discusses the possibility of the Order at its height being near omnipotent, able to quash violence by using the Force to cause, for example, mechanical failure, but points out the problems with possible corruption. Only thing is that both Ben and Yoda do place importance on the physical as well as the mental in training Luke. It may be argued that discipline of the body is essential for discipline of the mind. However, the lightsaber isn't just a weapon that Jedi sometimes find useful; it is "the weapon of the Jedi Knight", and its use is the first thing taught him. Not a symbol, for hanging on the mantlepiece, but a weapon, designed to be used. So the question is, why do the Jedi use physical violence (there, I said it) if they don't

have to? Could it be that the Jedi found they had to impose limits on themselves--that although they could perhaps wield the power of ST's Organians, they were not psychologically mature enough or didn't quite have the "cosmic awareness" to know always what the correct action would be? When you're playing with such awesome forces, you could have a terrible effect on the entire galaxy with a simple miscalculation. I don't know that I care to ascribe near-omnipotence to the Jedi, but it's interesting to think about.

Marlene Karkoska had a lot to say about Jedi, so I'll limit myself to a few salient points. First, the Jedi "final exam." I agree that in Old Republic times the test would probably be visionary, like Luke's on Dagobah. Why then, you ask, was Luke not tested this way before he was sent to confront Vader? There are several possible explanations. We have highly unusual circumstances: a severe dearth of Jedi masters, plus not only the fate of the galaxy hanging in the balance but also the future of the Jedi Order. Yoda tells Luke that if he successfully confronts Vader (i.e., passes that test), he will be a Jedi--but the last of the Jedi. If confronting Vader is indeed the test, surely it is because this is the best way to test Luke. This would be our assumption. But what if Luke were to fail? Ben and Yoda have every reason to expect that Vader would then find out that Leia was also his child, and subsequently attempt to capture, train and turn her; otherwise why would Ben so straitly warn Luke to guard his feelings? What would they have done if Luke had fallen or been killed? Would they have allowed Leia to be trained by Vader and/or the Emperor, hoping that she would have the strength to stay with the light side and become a Jedi? Good grief, I hope not! (Unless wraiths can effectively train Jedi...)

But perhaps they did test Luke by the "vision method"--but in a slightly different way. Luke came back to keep his promise to Yoda--but the first entity he sees is Ben. Test: will he control his anger? Luke has a lot to be mad at Ben about. Then, when he demands an explanation, Ben hands him

the line about "different points of view", which seems almost calculated to be infuriating. (Many fans certainly found it so!) Will Luke tell Ben to get out of his face? No: he calms himself down and accepts Ben, much as he will later accept Vader. The other test is of his perception. How many hints does he need before he can perceive that Leia is his sister? Too many, to my mind; but, of course, all this about that scene being Luke's test is conjecture. As Marlene says, we've never seen a normal, garden-variety Jedi. We don't even know if Luke's training was normal. One last thought: what did the Jedi Order do with novitiates who failed the test? Toss them into volcanoes?

There are definitely gray areas between "attack" and "defense", as Marlene points out. Using a two-value orientation can be useful for simplifying discussion, but clearly, SW actually operates on a multi-value orientation. For instance, if you'll recall my article on symbolism of black and white, you may notice that I never mentioned certain characters, such as Lando, Chewie, the Ewoks, and Threepio. They were not so simple to analyze, because I was using a two-value orientation. I thought about extending the analogy to the values (lightness or darkness) of particular colors--Lando's clothing, Chewie's fur--but I would have had to write a book, and I believe the analogy would have broken down sooner or later. You can't categorize everything as definitely good or definitely evil any more than you can say every American is either a Republican or a Democrat. There are middle values. Luke, Ben and even Yoda are sometimes wrong. Vader and the Emperor are sometimes right. To demand a flawless hero and a flawlessly evil villain is to demand He-Man, not SW. And as Chris Callahan says, dividing reason and emotion as respectively lightside and darkside is too simplistic as well. That's what Spock (but not the rest of Vulcan, you notice) tried to do, and it didn't work very well for him. He had to accept emotion, just as the humans he disdained for their emotionality accepted and used reason. It's negative emotion, and self-centered reason, which

are darkside. And these are general terms which can be difficult to define.

Marlene, your vision of Anakin having to do good deeds on the physical plane for penance gave me a great cross-over idea --SW and HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN. Yes?

Jean Stevenson: Ah, the old parsec controversy in a new light--"a certain point of view," indeed! Gadfreys, what does a parsec mean to the people in their galaxy? Nothing, since it's a measure based quite solidly on the width of Earth's orbit! But then again, parsec is an English word, and where does a culture get English if that culture has never known Germans, Celts, Goths, Anglo-Saxons, Normans, Vikings, Latin literature, Green science, or Mexicans and cowboys and Indians? Earth, or nowhere. So the possibilities are: (1) some past contact with Earth (which would actually have to be future for them, i.e., time travel), or (2) they speak their own language, and someone screwed up the translation, sort of like when the Elizabethan translators of the Bible found a Hebrew animal name they didn't know and therefore translated it "unicorn". (Later scholarship showed the animal to be a wild ox.) So the word was supposed to be "paraseconds", a measure of time in hyperspace, how does that sound? I know, totally off the wall.

Is anyone else furious over Norman Spinrad's column in the December issue of LOCUS? He was Shocked and Appalled by the number of people who (gasp) stood in line for the SW marathon at WorldCon instead of going to the Hugo ceremonies. My, how silly. But what's really disgusting to him is that these mental deficients, by virtue of having bought memberships in the con, might actually have voted on the Hugo ballots. After all, "the whole thing was started by little groups of sf readers" (emphasis his). Heaven forbid that media fans (ugh) should pretend literacy. I know this brand of prejudice is common in mainstream fandom, but reading this column made me feel like a black being told to sit in the back of the bus. Are we going to put up with this? Is there anything we can do about it? I'm sure it would help if more of us could behave like Maggie Nowakowska and Bev Clark report--

edly did there, astounding holier-than-thou mainstream people with the fact that not only do we have brains, but we occasionally use them. Well, I won't go on, since I'll just continue to wax more and more sarcastic, but does anyone have any more ideas? (Look, everyone, Terri Black got mad about something...)

Eccentric?

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February 2, 1985

Quick answers and hard facts first. Debbie Gilbert asks about a possible NPR JEDI show. According to Sidney Ganis at WorldCon, the money ain't there due to the current administration's dislike for NPR. I asked if a private concern could raise and donate the \$, and he said why not? The enthusiasm is there on the Lucasfilm side; all that is needed is a benevolent donator. Since Lucas has already sold the rights to NPR for \$1.00, I don't think we can expect him to put up the production cash. But I have to admit, I have fantasized about fandom contacting NPR, finding out the cost, the persuading donors to help as well as raising the \$ itself. Wouldn't it be great if we were the ones who brought JEDI to radio? Anyone out there got the time and energy to organize it?

To Terri Black: Er, I think you can blame the Yoda-as-fungus comparison to us CitySeattle types. I'm sure you heard it first from us...

Danaline Bryant: Thanks for reprinting Art's column on his discussion with Bev and me at Norwescon. It reminded me that I hadn't written to him yet...sigh.

Jean S. asked for the Joseph Campbell quote regarding SW and Faust. From the Dec. 18, 1984 issue, NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW:

NYT: So much of what you've done has been inspired by

writers. What's happening to literature now?

JC: I think it's folding. It's moving over into the visual field. You look today for something to match the magnitude of Joyce, Mann, Proust. Try to find it. Two weekends ago I was invited by George Lucas to his place in San Rafael to see all his films. I hadn't seen a movie for 20-odd years. He told me that it's my books, particularly THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES, and some of my lectures he's heard on tape that lie behind his STAR WARS films. Now I may just be over-impressed but in the three films of STAR WARS, the line he's taking is a continuation of FAUST, Part Two, Act Five--the problem of the modern mechanistic world of Faust versus Mephistopheles. Mephistopheles can furnish all the machines but he cannot determine Faust's dynamisms. And the one who allows the machine Mephistopheles to determine his impulse is the one who goes to hell. That's Vader, the father in the JEDI story. I see Lucas continuing a major concern of modern life and shifting from the world of literate minds to the popular masses who seem to me to be running the world. It's as though the spark had left the easel and the writer's pen and jumped into the camera."

Mary Keever asks about non-fan reaction to SW and its fandom. I've found that the best way to defuse negative reaction is to nurture an eccentric reputation. People aren't threatened by eccentrics, and expect a slightly askew Point of View from them; this allows you to remain part of the community while indulging in nonconformist activities. What I try to avoid (not always successfully) is inappropriate intensity. Fans do tend to get intense and assume everyone else is as involved in their specialty. But, most people either do not go on at length about their hobbies, or else don't tie their hobbies to personal feelings in public. If they do, no matter the interest, be it SW, model trains, collecting Barbie dolls or chocolate chip cookies, other people tend to turn them into curiosities, worthy of comments and observa-

tions that would make Miss Manners faint. As for the "kiddie stuff" complaints, hey, we get it in fandom too. The idea that adults should be embarrassed to be interested in something important to kids pops up here regularly. As if kids were a separate species or something. I like to tell scoffers that anything so important to children must command adult attention for they are us and one of our greatest responsibilities. Reaching children, rather than simply preaching to them, is difficult; I salute anyone who makes an honorable effort to do so.

I still like to talk about SW, though, for the reactions are so different from fandom's. Take the Han/Leia romance. The women in my art group didn't and don't buy it; they were willing to accept Lucas' development of the twinship, but not a romance they simply couldn't see between an upperclass diplomat/soldier and an "outlaw truck driver."

I enjoyed Liz Sharpe's essay on torture. I would like to add that pain need not be physical. The pain resulting from loss of function is exquisite and something I imagine a droid would be acutely anxious about. He might not feel a biological upset from having parts of him fried, but the knowledge that said frying will bollox chips and circuits would be terrifying, especially if function is being to a droid. As someone with severe asthma, not necessarily a bright pain malfunction, I can assure anyone that the limits it puts on my life often causes formidable psychic pain.

From an earlier issue: someone used Hamill's hair color change as a measure of sloppy filmmaking on Lucas' part. I learned something the other day that might explain his willingness to allow the color alteration. In Japanese folklore, a field Lucas mined extensively for SW images, the character who stands out, the protagonist who doesn't fit in and rebels, who is a bit wild and immature, is often presented as light- or even white-haired. Early Captain Harlock animations, for example, show him with white hair. As the character matures, grows responsive to his community and accepts tasks, his hair darkens, becomes more "normal." These days, Harlock sports au-

burn hair, still a little wild with its touch of red, but more less the odd man out. So, as Luke matures and becomes part of the rebellion, of the Jedi tradition, instead of a lonely farmboy misfit, as he takes on difficult tasks, he becomes part of a greater group and his hair reflects the changes. (If you are part of the crowd who thinks Luke is not responsible, of course, this will not apply, but since I do believe he grows to a mature, honorable man, the imagery adds to the character presentation.)

To Elsie Bartok: "guardians of justice" do not have to be police, or police-like organizations. The Church, the Civil Government, peer groups and a dominant philosophy can exert great influence, and have in various societies in human history. There can be policing functions incorporated into these other groups, but such do not operate as defining struc-

tures. Shunning, for example, is very effective in a closed society; popular expectations do work, as in frontier society where, contrary to popular legend, the crime rate against honest citizens was very low due to the assumption that rowdies and downport-types confined their adventures to each other's society and left up-town alone.

Finally, I would like to double, triple and quadruple Mary Urhausen's statement that "people can disagree without one of them having to be 'wrong' and one of them having to be 'right.'" Perhaps it is a consequence of our Judeo/Christian/Islamic culture that people believe there is, and can be, only one correct way of seeing, interpreting, absorbing anything. We all have the right to an opinion, and to express it, but when we flail it issue after issue, we begin to look like someone who is desperate to convert everyone to the "one

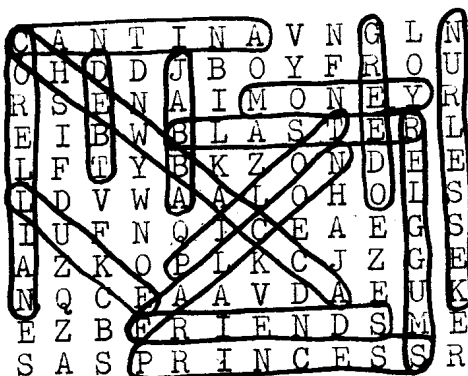
correct viewpoint" because we cannot imagine any other viewpoint being "right." This way of thinking sets people up for lots of hurt because it leads to "if she thinks I'm wrong, then she must think I'm a 'wrong' (bad) person to believe so." Maybe in not so many words, but the psychological reaction is there. If, after the third time you've brought up a subject, people still don't accept it, I suggest you stop, consider your initial "but they're wrong!" reaction, and then let the matter drop. All the logic in the world will not apply if people do not agree on premises. Anyone who has sat a jury will tell you that the Prosecution and the Defense can take the same facts and come up with two different, totally different interpretations. Logic is only a tool, an aide to understanding; it "proves" nothing.

Lucas is creating cartoon shows

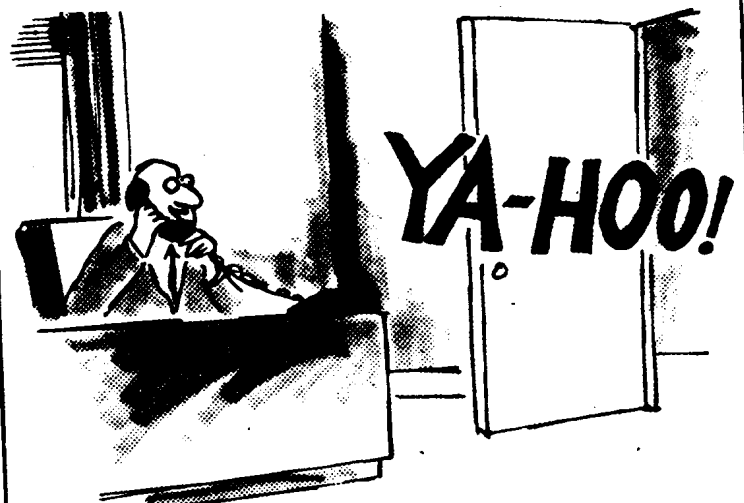
Lucasfilm, Ltd., the production company of George (Star Wars) Lucas, is making two new Saturday morning cartoon shows for ABC next season.

Ewoks gives kids more adventures of the furry friends from *Return of the Jedi*.

Droids: The Adventures of R2D2 and C-3PO, gives kids more adventures of the mechanical friends from all three *Star Wars* movies.



Business/NEWS



Harold

'Hold on, J.T. — I think we just got the Harrison account.'

Mos Eisley

Marketplace

Currently in Port

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tend the Intergalactic Ord Mantell Space Yacht Races; "Griev-ing" by Gianna--Han is dead. Can Lando win the Princess for his own? "Sidetracked"--Han and Luke's mission is 'slightly' altered by a bad deal and a tall female. Poems by Testa and more. \$6.00 fc. Linda DeLaurentis, 35-38 29th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106.

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CONTRABAND #3: Featuring Wells, Tennison, Teanna, Sharpe, Palmer, Streuli, Callahan, Benedict, Agel, others. \$6.00 in person, \$8.00 fc (checks payable to Chris Callahan). Order from the Unknown Press, c/o Callahan, 6101 Seminole Street, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740.

DECEPTIVE JOURNEY--Legal cargo hauls were unexciting or so Han Solo thought. He had been wrong before. SASE for flyer. DeVan Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

FANTAZY--New media-oriented zine featuring both original universe and existing universe prose/poetry/scripts starring your favorite actors/actresses--AND--yourself! No. 1 contains fiction by Martie Benedict, Cheree Cargill; Kathleen Tibbetts, Leslie Fish and Roberta Rogow; poetry by Cindy Smith and Jean L. Stevenson; TV script by Jon R. McKenzie. Art by Barbara Fister-Liltz. \$6.00 ppd. Checks payable to Barbara Fister-Liltz, Pandora Publications, 8601A West Cermak Rd., No. Riverside, IL 60546. FANTAZY II is tentatively scheduled for Spring '85 publication. Submissions deadline March 1, 1985. For guidelines SASE Joan B. Shumsky, 24 Meehan Avenue, Raritan, NJ 08869.

FAR REALMS 6. "Fire in the Steel --Part Two: Trust" by Chris Jeffords. Han's life hangs in the balance and Mari Sevenstars is forced to do a thing she swore never to do. "Seeds of Destruction--Jihad" by Jeanine Hennig. Han Solo has been abandoned on the planet Garet 5, Leia Organa and Wedge Antilles try to save Jessami Kenobi's life, and Luke Skywalker's mother, Rebekah, races to help her son, who had been taken to the Emperor in chains. Much, much more! Fiction by Lillian Carl, Diana Piercy, Linda Knights, Cheree Cargill, and Laurie Shanahan. Art by Martynn, Jenni, Cargill, Dani Lane. Another big issue! SASE for info. Galactic Winds Press, c/o Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

FLIP OF A COIN. 1984 Fan Q Nominee for Best Other Media Zine. A fanzine dedicated to characters portrayed by Harrison Ford over the years. Each issue contains fiction, poems, puzzles, cartoons, filks, lots of nice artwork and much more. #1 is still available but only a very few copies are left, \$8.40. #2, \$10.00. #3, \$10.50. #4/5 now available. #6 due out soon. SASE for info. Send orders or other correspondence to FLIP OF A COIN, c/o Paula Truelove, 502 McKeithan St., Apt. 4A, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

GUARDIAN 6 contains ST/SW/UNCLE/RLA/ET fiction by Brin, Carraher, Ecklar, Gonzales, Johansen, Kirby, Knights, Osman and others. Poetry by Gattonpaulis, Bowles; art by O'Neill, Reitz, and River. Plus much more. Looking for small filler cartoons. SASE Mazeltough Press, P.O. Box 248, Wayzata, MN 55391.

HARRISON FORD FUN BOOK. Giant collection of over 100 word search and other puzzles based on "Heroes", "Hanover Street", "Frisco Kid", SW, TESB, ROTJ, "Blade Runner", "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Temple of Doom." Also test your knowledge on

trivia and script quote quizzes. \$10.00 FC. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Ave., Madisonville, KY 42431.

JUNDLAND WASTES--Absolutely the last chance to round out your collection or indulge your curiosity with back issues of the classic SW letterzine! As of the last day of MediaWest all back issues will rendezvous with the trash (no comments please). Issues 1, 2 and 4 available for \$1 each first class; 5/6, 8, 11 and 14 for \$2 first class, and 15/16 for \$4. Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

KESSEL RUN #4--SW fiction, articles, poetry and artwork by Agel, Benedict, Brin, Edwards, Laymon & Goldstein, Hennig, Matthews, Hines-Stroede, Mollitor, Nussman, Sibley, Taero, Adolf, Zeek, Lorenstein, Varesano, Drake, Dunster, Martynn, Cargill, Faraci, Low, Lybarger, Ludwig, Stasulis, Rosenthal, Wells, etc. Includes "Sword of Darkness, Sword of Light" by Patricia D'Orazio--the Emperor still lives and chaos reigns; "Old Friends and Acquaintances" by Carol Hines-Stroede--Lando and Vader must work together to save a space station; "Novitiate" by Jeanine Hennig--Luke returns to Tatooine to train and do some heavy soul-searching; and "Life-Line" by A. E. Zeek--Han and Leia must rescue Luke from the Imps with the help of Han's old friend Alain, also known as Dracula. \$18.00. Make check payable to Michelle Malkin, 6649 Castor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19149. KR#3 still available. SASE for info.

LEGENDS OF LIGHT #2. Available now. Fiction by: Agel, Blair-Aspengren, Bratton, Brin, Brown, Cole, Gilbert, Gregory, Hennig, Morey, Mularski, Sansom, Sharpe, Vermande, Walker, Wilson. Art by: Bryant, Burnside, Cerritelli, Clissold, Dunster, Eldred, Hennig, Lybarger, Martynn, McPherson, Morey, Morris, O'Neill, Sansom, Voll, Walker. Also puzzles, articles, more "Dear Yoda", cartoons, LoC's, and more! Offset reduced, 382 pages, perfect bound. \$11 cover price. SASE for postage costs to: POOZ Press, c/o Susan Voll & Rebecca Walker, 10191 Maya Linda Rd. #76, San Diego, CA 92126. Make checks payable to Susan Voll. Note: issue #1 is

sold out. SASE if you are interested in a xerox copy.

MELANGE III--Contains sequel to Patricia D'Orazio's "Edge of the Blade"; fiction by Benedict, Agel, Stevenson, Hill; TV script by Graham; poetry by Brayton, Taero, Agel. Art by Barbara Fister-Liltz. For price and flyer, please write to: Barbara Fister-Liltz, Pandora Publications, 8601A Cermak Rd., No. Riverside, IL 60546. (Some copies of MELANGE II still available. #1 sold out. SASE inquiries to Barbara at above address.)

MELANGE IV--Mixed media anthology featuring RAIDERS, REMINGTON STEELE, HANOVER STREET, BIONIC WOMAN and STAR WARS fiction by Juanita Salicrup, Jean L. Stevenson, Jon R. McKenzie, Cheree T. Cargill, Martie Benedict and Patricia D'Orazio. Poetry by Teresa Sarick, Kathryn Agel, Kelly Hill and Jean L. Stevenson. Art by Barbara Fister-Liltz. \$6.00 ppd. Checks payable to: Barbara Fister-Liltz, Pandora Publications, 8601A Cermak Rd., No. Riverside, IL 60546.

ON THE MARK--the newsletter for Mark Hamill fans! Each issue is from 6 to 8 pages and includes articles on the current career of Mark Hamill, plus exclusive photographs, artwork, JEDI and Star Wars news, cartoons, a letter column and special articles on Mark's past career accomplishments. Published quarterly with the approval of Mark Hamill. A one year subscription gets you 4 issues and announcements of special events. \$4.00/yr U.S., \$8.00 overseas. Make checks payable to Lisa Cowan, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92667.

OUTLAND CHRONICLES #2. Stories by Kathryn Agel, Susan Matthews, Ann Wortham, Charles Garofalo, Christine Jeffords, Eva Albertson, C. S. Armitage; art by Lybarger, Martynn, Summers, Stasulis, Stocking; filks, poetry, puzzles, more! SASE for info. OC#3 will accept stories through Aug. 1, filler and art through Nov. 1, SASEs anytime, for a hoped-for December debut. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

PERCEPTIONS--A new fanzine dedicated to Harrison Ford. Now

available. Writers include Carolyn Colledge, Maggie Nowakowska, Cheree Cargill. Art by Cheryl Fint, J. R. Dunster, Cheree Cargill, Bonnie Burns. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

SCOUNDREL--The "no-frills" letterzine devoted to the SW saga. \$6.50/4 issues; \$1.25 per issue. Published quarterly. Checks payable to Joan Shumsky, 24 Meehan Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869.

SHADOW DANCE--Media zine devoted to those lovable scoundrels. #1 -- \$7.50. Fiction by Callahan, Smithline. Poetry by Hunter, Baker. Art by Wells, Davenport. SASE for more info. #2 in the planning stages. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

SHOOTING STAR #1. The Original Mark Hamill zine. "Roommates" by Kim Gianna. Luke's parentage is the type laughed at in "B" movies, as he soon finds out! "Hamillquest" by Mary Soderstrom. Elfquest was never like this! Art by Davenport, Burnside, McPherson, Jenni. Cover by J. R. Dunster. \$6.00 FC. Galactic Winds Press, Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

THE OLD REPUBLIC READER. Quarterly, 20 pp, comp-typed, short illoed SW fic., poetry, toons, comics, articles. TORR is available for \$1.75/issue or \$6/4 from Suzy Sansom, 376 Granada Drive, So. San Francisco, CA 94080. Editor is seeking filler art submissions--please help.

THE PRINCESS TAPES, a SW/Princess Leia-oriented fanzine is now available from Krystarion Press for the cover price of \$7.00. Contains 5 stories including 3 pre-SW tales from Leia's background, 3 articles, two poems, two art portfolios, our infamous "unclassifieds", and much more. TPT also features a color cover by Connie Faddis. Send SASE or SASP for mailing information. Sorry about that, but it varies too much for one price to cover all. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE PRINCESS TAPES: THE PROLOGUE is still available for \$1.50

cover price, \$2.50 fc mail. If ordered together with TPT, send SASE or SASP for mailing costs. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: Nominee for the 1984 "FAN *%&(% Award". Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton and others. Cover by Karen River. \$12.50, first class mail, \$10.00 in person. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR is a quarterly newsletter listing available, proposed, and international zines for all media fandoms in a convenient, "see-at-a-glance" format. Also includes reviews, con info, and other items of interest to fandom. \$2.75 per iss. (\$3.75 overseas); subscriptions are available for up to two issues--\$5.50 (\$7.50 overseas). Make checks payable to Susan J. Bridges, 200 West 79th St. 14H, New York, NY 10024. Editors, ads are free and we are looking for yours!

VHF-THE COMPLETE BOOK OF LYRICS. All the lyrics to all of Martie Benedict's songs celebrating the many film roles of Harrison Ford. Art by Wanda Lybarger and Carlotta Vaughan. A must for fans of Martie's songs! \$12.00 fc. Martie Benedict, Box 89 Eckert, CO 81418-0089.

WELL OF THE SOULS #4: "An Eye for an Eye" by Tammy Monfette. Indy and Belloq are drawn to a mysterious jungle city for the legendary jewels it is said to hold. What they find there is more than they bargained for... or could conceive of in their wildest dreams--or worst nightmares. "The Exhibit" by Carol-Lynn Sappe'. A handsome archaeologist and his beautiful assistant try to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant from its hiding place. If you think you've heard it before, you're wrong--because this archaeologist's name is Marcus B. Jones and this is today! "As Time Goes By", by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. A few small incidents from the life and times of Dr. and Mrs. Jones, from 1939 to 1983. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, but always containing more in-

jokes than you can imagine! And more: stories, non-fiction, filks, poems, puzzles, and of course the famous WOTS-style cartoons. Cover by Martynn, art by Cargill, Fint, Kreuz, and Truax. \$6.00 FC from Sally Smith, 12221 W. 2nd Pl. #12-104, Lakewood, CO 80228.

Coming Soon to a Galaxy Near You

ALL THAT JAZZ--the first and possibly only all A-Team zine around! #1--Fiction so far by Garrett, Smithline, Habel. Art so far by Larimer. Submissions now being sought and accepted. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

THE BARON OF BESPIN -- Wanted: Contributions to a zine for discriminating adults who understand what it feels like to be caught between a rock and a hard place. We LIKE Lando Calrissian. We appreciate his position. Wanted: short stories, art, poetry, articles, comment, about the Baron, his life, his responsibilities, his place in the SW galaxy and the Alliance. Publishing aims: digest-size zine, Kodak-copied, max 64 pages reduced, pubdate depends on what we get from you. SASE Susan Matthews/Lack Tablecloth FanAc, Ninja Press, 2330 Federal Ave. East, Seattle, WA 98102.

CHOICE PARTS -- a new Harrison Ford zine, just slightly more on the adult side. Looking for very high quality material featuring any of HF's characters. Emphasis will be on story quality and, though stories won't be turned down because of sexual content, we don't want hard x-rated stuff either. Editor's discretion and stories will be judged individually. Again, the emphasis is on QUALITY. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadownhill, Garland, TX 75043.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT #2. Premiering at MediaWest Con '85 with "Hostage" by Jeffords, "In the Service of the High King" by Snyder, "Those in the Dark" by Black and Carr, "A Relatively Small Disagreement" by Wortham and more by Farnsworth, Taero,

White, Vandiver, Dani, Hall and McGhin. Art by Martynn, Lybarger, Dani, Snyder, Jenni, Sansom, Cargill. Reservations are \$5.00 and SASE to L. A. Carr, Jumeau Press, 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT #3. Now soliciting contributions for this SW zine, due out in 1986. All interested parties please contact Jumeau Press at 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

ECHO SEVEN #1. Who are the Bothans and why did so many of them die in the course of obtaining and transmitting information about the new Death Star? Why is Han Solo such a klutz? Did he ever really regain his eyesight? Did Luke Skywalker truly confront the Dark Side and emerge victorious? Or was his sole mission to turn his father back to the light? Is Leia Organa really the "other Skywalker"? Is the "other Skywalker" the same person as the "other hope"? These questions and many more won't be answered in ECHO SEVEN, but we did get your attention! ECHO SEVEN (1?) features fiction by Jeffords, Wortham, Tennison with and without Stevens, Agel, and more (including Ye Ed). Filks and poetry by Taero, Jenni, Carr, White, Caviness, and more. Art and games by Boll, Sansom, Lybarger, Eluki, Vandiver, Erwin and more. \$5.00 and SASE will reserve a copy for your collection. Seitnsyn Press, c/o Darla Doxstater, PO Box 1704, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

ECLECTIC--a new multi-media zine is now open for submissions from all fandoms. We will probably concentrate on STAR WARS and STAR TREK, since they have the largest following in media fandom, but all other fandoms, as well as original SF and fantasy creations are welcome, including comix. Our emphasis will be on quality (we intend to do this thing up right with excellent layout and printing), but we are willing to work with submissions that show promise. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

FIELD STUDIES II. What was that we said about "one-shot"? TEMPLE OF DOOM changed our minds. We will feature more adventures with Indy by Martie Benedict,

T. S. Weddell, Cheree Cargill, Laura Virgil and Jeannie Webster. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn and Laura Virgil. Still taking submissions. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

JUST A COUPLA JOKERS. The first all SIMON & SIMON zine (that we know of!) is looking for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art, as well as interested parties in such a zine. Aiming for a Christmas '85 printing, we already have work by Jeffords, Carr and Hall with promises for more. Submissions and SASE's (no money at this time, please!) to Jumeau Press, 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

LEGENDS OF LIGHT. As of February 1985 there will not be a third issue of LoL such as issues one and two. The major deterrents are increased job demands and limited financial resources for the editors. However, we are planning to publish the sequel to Susan Voll's "Forerunner" (LoL #1) in Spring 1986. Included with this mini-issue will be additional contributions, including short stories, poems, filks, artwork, LoC's for issue #2 and filler material. A firm limit will be imposed on the number of pages in this third issue. Contributions will not be accepted until September 1, 1985. Please watch for future notices in the ad sections of zine for details. Thanks to everyone for their support of LoL! Rebecca Walker & Susan Voll, editors.

NOT JUST LUKE. A new fanzine in the making! And it's just for Mark! Okay, Hamill fans, now is the time to show your stuff. The time has come for all Mark Hamill fans to show Mark just how much we appreciate his talents. To let him know, he's NOT JUST LUKE! Artwork, poetry, open letters and stories are now being accepted for this special zine. The subject is MARK and all his OTHER portrayals, NOT JUST LUKE! In fact, though Luke may be strong with the Force, very little of him will be allowed in. So, put your thinking caps on! There's so much more to Mark! Remember, he's NOT JUST LUKE! SASE Kelly Francois, 1749 Bainbridge St. #2, LaCrosse, WI 54603.

ONE FROM THE HEART--A proposed one-shot zine dealing with all the characters Mark Hamill has portrayed on television, film and stage. We are currently seeking all types of submissions (open letters, filks, short stories, long stories, artwork). Ann Harvers and Lee Shenker, Co-Editors. Naughty Girls Press, 411-84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH. Now accepting submissions for a new SW zine. We are interested in any area of the SW universe from pre-A NEW HOPE to after ROTJ. We need stories, art, and poetry. Please no x-rated material. Deadline Feb. '85. Imagination Unlimited. Mark and Melea Fisher, 3474 No. Beltline #2133, Irving, TX 75062.

PERFECT FUSION, VOL. I, due Feb. 85, \$10.00 deposit & SASE--SW, SF. The first volume of this adult zine published by a former editor of Organia will contain 75% SW's and 25% SF material. Contributors include: Ablove, Alman, Blaes, Cargill, Denton, Drake, Faraci, Fetter, Hedge, Hennig, Kaplowitz, Knights, Lorenstein, Mathai, Malkin, Osman, Stasulis, Swan, Tennison and many others. Age statement required. Beverly Lorenstein, Penn Wynn House #101, 2201 Bryn Mawr Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131.

PERSPECTIVE--New and different kind of letterzine. State your views anonymously if you desire. Now accepting letters, articles, poetry, cartoons, and other filler. SASE for info. NOT A GRIPE ZINE! Black Unicorn Press, Kerri Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

POWER OF SPEECH--a new STAR TREK/media letterzine with NO CENSORSHIP and a primary commitment to fans; seeking essays, reviews, LoCs and art. Civilized controversy welcomed. Send SASE and \$1 to Sandra H. Necchi, 4509 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19139.

SHOOTING STAR #2--The original Mark Hamill zine! "Like an Unfinished Symphony" by Linda Knights. There is one Jedi left besides Luke, but the young Jedi's search leads to unusual circumstances. "Pilgrimage" by Lee Vibber. The Force seems to

have deserted Luke after his victory over the Death Star...or has it? Art by Cargill, McPherson, Lane, Jenni and much more. Cover by Karen River! \$4.00 and SASE will reserve your copy. Due out for MediaWest. Galactic Winds Press, Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

SITH YEARBOOK -- An Imperial-oriented zine in the tradition of Imperial Entanglements. Writers include Bonder, Habel, Hines-Stroede, Necchi, Osman, Tennison/Stevens, Wilson, etc. Art by Bonder, Contessa, Habel, Hummel, Rosenthal, Stasulis, Van Riper. ARTISTS STILL NEEDED! \$3.00 and SASE; all monies will be put in a savings account until press time. Guaranteed refunds in case of Rebel snub-fighters ramming the bridge or other disasters. Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland ME 04103. Contains material involving same-sex relationships (yes, Piett and Serzho are back, better than ever). Due for MediaWest V.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS, a new SW zine, will contain fiction by L. A. Carr, Susan Hall, Jeanine Hennig, Cheree Cargill, Laura Virgil, Sharane McCurry, Joan Shumsky, etc. Art by Dani, Jenni, Cargill, Virgil, Pat Easley, Suzy Sansom and more! We still need a few artists, filler and short stuff. Due May 1985. SASEs will be accepted for notification of publication date but no monetary deposits will be taken. Send all correspondence to: Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS, a new multimedia zine, is now open for submissions. All media fiction is welcome. Topics so far include RAT PATROL, STAR WARS and SIMON AND SIMON. Due out late '85. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

THE LEADING EDGE is a SF and F zine that features new and old writers and artists. Material for TLE #6 and 7 include stories, poetry, art and articles. If you are interested in submitting or subscribing to TLE, please contact: The Leading Edge, c/o Marion K. Smith, JKHB Rm. #3163, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON CASEBOOK is a thematic one-shot seeking contribs; SASE for guidelines. BRIGHTSTAR IN GLORY, the only mainline Brightstar Universe novel will take the Lucas/Brightstar cast through their analog of ROTJ; written by Christine Jeffords, planned for May '85 debut, and now accepting SASEs. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

THE MONOCLE is a fanzine dedicated to the fantasy TV series WIZARDS AND WARRIORS. Now accepting checks for deposit of \$5.00 plus a SASE which will reserve your copy. Checks should be addressed to Mel L. Gifford. They will not be cashed until I go to press which should be about Jan. 85. Send money to Camarand Press, c/o Mel L. Gifford, 355 East 400 North, Provo, UT 84601.

THE PRINCESS TAPES #2 is open for submissions. Writers needed desperately! Sole, single editor looking for one or more up-and-coming writers (or even more established ones) in media fandom. Object: stories to fulfill THE PRINCESS TAPES backgrounds and personalities for TPT, including Han Solo, Luke Skywalker (childhood), Obi-Wan Kenobi, Wedge Antilles, Chewbacca, etc. Sole editor also needs editorial help (firm but fair) on her own literary efforts. All who participate will be given full credit, a free zine, and much gratitude (as well as hopefully ego-boo from the fans). Write for details. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE #2: Fiction, articles, and poetry by Ripley, Golledge, Martz, Peed, Hennig, Saye, Rogan, Cope and others too ashamed to be mentioned here by name! Art by Lybarger, River, Carleton, Peed, Golledge, Charvat, Bryant, and others still consulting their lawyers! And a centerfold that will knock your--uh--socks off!! Coming for MediaWestCon V. \$5.00 deposits are always nice but not required; the Wookiee'll get your money, sooner or later! SASE Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

WELL OF THE SOULS #5. Available

sometime next summer, full of more short stories, cartoons, and featuring a full-length novel, "Tinseltown" by Roberta Rogow. Indy, Willie and Shorty return to America and fall in with evil companions--like William Randolph Hearst, David Niven, Katharine Hepburn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Louis B. Mayer...not to mention the Chinese thugs who are out to get Indy and Shorty in revenge for Lao Che's son's death...and a natural disaster or two. You get the idea! I'm still looking for more submissions and am desperate for artists. Sally Smith, 12221 W. 2nd Pl. #12-104, Lakewood, CO 80228.

XANADU--We regret to announce that, due to a number of personal problems that have arisen individually among the editors of Xanadu, we have decided to cancel publication of this zine. All contributors will be contacted very shortly about their material. Thanks for all the interest shown. Falcon Press, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

OTHER Words

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KRYSTARION PRESS: Help an editor complete her mailing lists. If anyone plans on purchasing THE PRINCESS TAPES and already possessed a copy of TPT: THE PROLOGUE, when sending in the order incideate which number of THE PROLOGUE you have. This will be greatly appreciated with mucho thanks by the editor of both the above zines. Also that will allow said editor to match the numbers of both zines for each fan who orders them. Thanks. J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

ATTENTION TEXAS SW/LUCAS FANS! The Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society (TRAAS) is forming to fight the tyranny of the forgotten fen! TRAAS will be a statewide network to spread news & information about the SW/Lucasfilms projects, promote, aide, and prepare programming & exhibits for local cons, and organize parties and special projects. For further information, SASE C. E. Cooper, PO Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

BACK ISSUES OF SF MAGAZINES (Starlog, Fantastic Films, etc.) 1978-1981. Also SW toys & cards; paperbacks on SW, ST, Battlestar Galactica, etc. for sale. Or will trade for SW, SW, Doctor Who zines, DW novels and other DW and Tom Baker items. Please send SASE for list. Gayle Johnson, Rt. 4, Box 64, Chatsworth, GA 30705.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

FORD FANS--PLEASE HELP US put down a star on the "Walk of Fame" in Hollywood for Harrison Ford. This is the fans' way of saying "Thanks" for the many hours of pleasure Mr. Ford has given us! We still need about \$1,300 to reach the required \$3000! All contributors will have their name put on a scroll which will be presented to Harrison. Strict records are kept of contributions and passed along to Mr. Ford's secretary for their records. Also collecting letters from fans stating why they feel Mr. Ford deserves his own star that will be relayed to the nominating committee. Any and all contributions are appreciated. Check or money order to: Ruth Scott-Special Account, PO Box 380544, San Antonio, TX 78280.

GEORGE LUCAS APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION SOCIETY. Dedicated to George and George alone, the GLAAS is merely an attempt to bring together those who truly appreciate all that George has done for us. The GLAAS, unfortunately, is in no way related to Lucasfilm Ltd. and its properties and therefore relies totally on YOU, the appreciative and admiring member for the contents of its quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will be a place for all to voice their opinion, react to another's opinion, display artwork, comics and the like. Yet, in no way will it be a place for digression to a level of gossip and smut. George had done so much for us. Let's all appreciate him together. One year membership: \$5.00 (\$8.00 overseas). Write to: GLAAS, c/o Kelly Francois, 1749 Bainbridge Street #2, LaCrosse, WI 54603.

I AM OFFERING fair, honest zine reviews in return for free or postage-only copies. Will accept defective copies and will provide copy of review before publication. Am also offering experienced, complete proof-reading in return for contrib copy. Sandra Necchi, 4509 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19139.

I AM WISHING TO BUY STAR WARS zines. If you have any you are willing to sell, please send price you are asking, title and condition to Sheryl Herrly, 2330 North Evergreen, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

"I'M STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP!" An out of print reproduction service. The following zines are available by editorial permission: **CROSSED SABERS**, **DOCKING BAY**, **FACETS**, **MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE**, **ARCHAEOLOGY 101**, **EMPIRE REVIEW**, **FAR REALMS**, **MILLENNIUM**. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

LOOKING FOR OUT-OF-PRINT ZINES? Terminal poverty is forcing me to sell a large part of my gigantic zine collection. Separate lists for Star Trek and Star Wars zines/memorabilia. Send SASE (40¢) for both lists) to R. Magda, 1063 W. Dakin, Chicago, IL 60613.

MORE EASTLY CON--a science fiction convention, will be held Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1985, at the Sheraton LaGuardia Hotel in New York City. Memberships are \$17.50 through 11/30/84; \$22.00 through 3/31/85; \$26.00 thereafter. Send 3 SASE's with memberships. Limited table space; tables are \$15.00 (whole) or \$7.50 (half) and do not include a membership. Program suggestions welcomed. Make checks

payable to More Eastly Associates and write to Devra Langsam, 627 E. 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218.

NEEDED: all of the British SW comics that feature the "Raiders of the Void!" plot (Goodwin story, Golden art). Will borrow and return or buy for \$1.00 each. 50¢ all other British SW comics. Write Tim Blaes, Route 6, Box 294, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

SALE--includes zines (SW and ST), posters, Japanese photo magazines, comics, Remington Steele photos, artwork, lobby card sets, and more other miscellaneous junk than you can shake a lightsabre at! For list, SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$10. All episodes, all characters. Full sets only, assembled to order. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

VHF

Harrison Ford-inspired songs by Martie Benedict. Tapes featuring Han, Indy, Kenny, Rick, Tommy and others. New Indiana Jones tape now available! SASE Martie Benedict, Box 89, Eckert, CO 81418-0089.

WANTED: Copies of "Falcon's Flight" #2, 4, 5 & 6. Willing to pay a reasonable amount for them. I hope someone can help me in SW zine world. Want to complete my set. Fran Husejinovic, 1722 Decatur St., Ridgewood, NY 11385.

WANTED: Good copies of the SW and TESB radio shows. Sally Smith, 12221 W. 2nd Pl. #12-104, Lakewood, CO 80228

WANTED: for ROSTIRASA's clippings/articles files: ST and

DR. WHO clippings and/or articles wanted from across the country and from overseas. Good, readable copies are acceptable, though the originals are appreciated! Will trade for copies of articles of ST and DW that I have, or copies of articles from Raiders/TOD, Tom Selleck, Knight Rider/Hasselhoff, old Starsky and Hutch, the SW Saga/characters therefrom, and old series ST. SASE's are a must when inquiring on availability of certain articles and they are greatly appreciated otherwise! ROSTIRASA, De Ghysel, PO Box 24, East Rochester, NY 14445.

ZINE SALE--a variety of zines, mostly SW, many out of print, are available. For list, SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

ZINE SALE: Vintage STAR TREK collection, mainly from mid-70's such as "Spock Enslaved", "Kraith Collected", etc. SASE for price list to Sharon R. Saye, 124 Davis St., Apt. A, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. SASE for flyer. Also Dirk Benedict--20 color photos from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Other TV shows as well. SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

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